



Barton County Farm Service Agency

March 2011

1520 Kansas
Great Bend, KS 67530-4003
PH (620) 792-5329
FAX (620) 792-4875
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Lynn Peterson,
County Executive Director
Marsha Gerstner,
Program Technician
Marty Lohmann,
Program Technician
Sue Roberts,
Program Technician
Jamie Buehler,
Program Technician
Jerry Hayes,
Program Technician

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Herrmann,
Farm Loan Manager
Kati Bolte,
Farm Loan Officer
Jennifer Dlabal,
Program Technician
Marcy Ost,
Program Technician

County Committee

Kent Romine,
Chairperson
Craig Beran,
Vice Chairperson
Kevin Bahr,
Member
Kim Morgenstern,
Minority Advisor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Report Your Wheat Acres

May 31, 2011, is the final date to timely report your planted acres of wheat, barley, triticale and oats. Acreage reporting is required by the DCP and ACRE programs. It is also a requirement of commodity loans and LDPs. CRP eligibility also requires annual acreage reports, along with the NAP program. The county office is sending out appointment cards to producers who have not yet been in to certify their small grain acres or sign into the 2011 DCP program.

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2011 DCP and ACRE programs is currently underway. Producers who have enrolled may receive 22% of the annual payment in advance of the October final payments. The producer may elect to receive these advance payments in any month from the time all signatures are obtained to the end of the fiscal year. The farm program contract (CCC-509) requires all owners and operators to sign the form. The final date to return signatures is June 1, 2011.

Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation

Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Payment Eligibility

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Payments and benefits under certain FSA programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule average AGI limitations
- no program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:
- all required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made
- after 2009, a farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the county office
- if any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) determination, producers must timely notify the county office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as applicable. Failure to timely notify the county office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland, equipment, livestock, finance agricultural input expenses and refinance some types of existing agricultural debt. FSA has a program to assist nearly every farm operator including beginning farmers, members of socially disadvantaged groups, financially distressed operators, or anyone needing financial assistance for a qualifying agricultural purpose. Some common loan programs you may have heard or read about are rural youth loans, beginning farmer loans, direct or guaranteed farm ownership loans, direct or guaranteed operating loans, and a new conservation loan program released late last year.

FSA loans generally offer lower interest rates, lower collateral requirements and longer repayment terms than standard commercial credit. Most FSA interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan. Operating term loans to finance machinery or livestock can be made up to a maximum of \$300,000 for 7 years with a current fixed rate of 2.5% (March rate). Farm ownership loans for real estate purchases or development can be made for a maximum of \$300,000 for up to 40 years with a current fixed rate of 4.875% (March rate). Beginning farmer real estate interest rates can be as low as 1.5%. Interest rates vary slightly each month. Your interest rate would be the rate available on the day your loan is approved or the rate on the date of loan closing, whichever is lower. FSA has numerous loan combinations and loan limitations up to a combined level of \$1,919,000.00 for 2011.

Contact FSA-Farm Loan Programs to discuss your particular situation, review eligibility requirements, and see how we can assist you with your financial needs. Farm Loans is headquartered in the Russell county office.

Farm Stored Facility Loan March Rates

7 yr loan	2.875%
10 yr loan	3.5 %
12 yr loan	3.875 %

Dates to Remember

3/14 – 4/15	41 st General CRP Sign-up
March 31	Final day for 2010 wheat loans
May 01	Final day for 2010 feed grain loans
June 01	Final date for DCP & ACRE sign-up
July 29	Final date for 2009 SURE

41st Sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program

The next general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Through CRP, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land can be enrolled for a period of up to 15 years. During the general signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

CRP SAFE Acres

Producers with small environmentally sensitive or erodible, or less productive spots in larger fields may want to check on the CRP SAFE practice. The SAFE practice stands for state acres for wildlife enhancement. Five acres or 20% of a field, whichever is larger, may be enrolled in the SAFE. These acres are planted to grass and their main focus is to provide nesting habitat for upland birds. Irrigated pivot corners may be enrolled in their entirety. Producers earn annual rental payments based upon the soil types of the soils being offered, earn cost share equal to 90% of last year's average cost when all incentives are applied and also earn a signup incentive of a one-time payment equal to \$100 per acre for each acre enrolled.

2009 SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 SURE program is currently underway and will continue through July 29, 2011. Under this program producers are reimbursed for losses incurred during the 2009 crop year. Barton County is a contiguous county to a secretarial designated disaster county in 2009 (Rice Co.). This allows Barton County producers who have suffered at least a 10% loss in production on a crop of economic significance to be eligible for the program. A requirement of the SURE program is that all of a producer's crops of economic significance are covered by insurance or NAP. This is for all crops in all counties in which they have a farming interest.

County 2010 Commodity Loan Rates

Soybeans	4.84 / bu
Corn	2.04 / bu
Grain Sorghum	3.33 / cwt
Sunflower –oil	10.41 / cwt
Wheat	2.75 / bu