



August 2010



Cherokee County News

Cherokee County USDA Service Center

Cherokee County FSA

300 E. Country Rd.
Columbus, KS 66725
620-429-3360 (phone)
620-429-1567 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

County Committee

Ronald Westervelt
Herb Jarrett
Steve Rider
David Scott, Advisor

County Committee
meets
first Wednesday of the
month, 8 a.m.

Staff

Donna Winter
Patti Roark
Dora Dunlap
Rosemary Pillar

FARM SAFETY

Summer is an especially hectic time on Cherokee County farms. Please remember to be careful as you go about your farm work.

It's important to walk around machinery and check shields and guards. Double check that the PTO's master shield is in place, and the SMV signs are on the machinery.

If you are working in grain bins, don't forget that flowing grain can kill, and kill quickly. It takes less than 5 seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try to avoid working alone in bins or confined spaces. If that is not possible, let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers offers the following safety tips for farmers:

1. Read and follow instructions in the equipment manuals for operating your machinery safely.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. To avoid getting entangled, don't wear loose fitting clothing if you will be entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors. Use seat belts while operating tractors with ROPS.
5. Be watchful while operating tractors and other farm equipment on rural roadways.
6. Use protective gear while operating machinery.
7. Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precautions when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas, and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

And finally, don't forget that if you take medicine, take it at the appropriate time, and be sure as much as possible to eat on schedule.

SURE PROGRAM

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that occurred in the crop years 2008 through the 2011 ending date of September 30. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in ALL counties. In the absence of crop insurance the producer is to obtain coverage under the Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP). This insurance requirement under SURE applies to all except grazed acreage.

Crop insurance is not required, however, for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds ten percent of the value of the coverage. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher are also exempt from this insurance purchase requirement.

At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to an eligible disaster condition to trigger SURE payment. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5 percent or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm.

Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of at least a 50 percent individual loss are eligible to receive SURE payment.

Losses are measured with regard to whole farm revenue. The deadline to apply for SURE payment in connection with the 2008 year is September 30, 2010.

CROP LOAN AVAILABILITY

To be eligible for a loan, operators and owners must have beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is either repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Producers must also be in compliance with conservation and wetland procedures, acreage reporting provisions, and Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. Participation in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is not necessary to be loan eligible.

Loan rates for Cherokee Co. are as follows: Wheat (SRW), \$1.74/bu.; Wheat (HRW), \$2.79/bu.; Corn, \$2.10/bu.; Grain sorghum, \$3.49/cwt.; and Soybeans, \$4.96/bu.



Please promptly advise us of changes that effect your farming operation. If you have bought or sold ground, or have leased or stopped leasing ground, we need to know. If you have changed from an individual operation to one in the name of a trust, estate, partnership, or a corporation, or have changed back to an individual operation, we need to know all this so our records match your IRS records.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

To be eligible for this program, producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to a natural disaster. This is after adjustment for normal mortality. The natural disaster must occur Jan. 1, 2008 or later, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

Assistance can be received for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. A condition of eligibility is having purchased for the year on the crop either private insurance, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) insurance or having obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement.

Cost share assistance at the rate of 70 percent of the replant costs and 50 percent of the pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees is available.



LIP CHANGES ON VERIFIABLE EVIDENCE

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) producers who will be using a dead wagon receipt to verify pick up of an animal that the producer wants to count as either an adverse weather event loss or a normal mortality loss, will now have to have additional detail on the pick up receipt. The receipt will need to show for each animal picked up the kind, type, and approximate weight, for example beef, nonadult, 400 to 799 pounds. (The adult category for beef starts at 800 pounds; the baby calf category goes up to 400 pounds).

Please keep in mind that the BEST documentation is having a vet see the animal where found and before it has been moved. He or she can document the death and the probable cause of loss. (LIP does not require posting to document the cause of loss). If the vet does the visit, no dead wagon receipt with additional detail is needed.

FSA FARM LOANS

We are committed to providing family farmers loans to meet their farm credit needs. If it's hard for you to get the credit you need for your farm, or you regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

We'll help you complete the necessary application and other forms, help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it.

Dates to Remember

Aug. 27	Last day to offer acreage in the CRP general signup.
Sept. 6	Office closed for Labor Day.
Sept. 30	Final date to apply for SURE on 2008 losses.
Dec. 1	Last day to pay NAP fee to get coverage on all grasses, mixed forage, lespedeza, alfalfa, clover, vetch, and most fruits (contact us for details).

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT

Foreign investors in U.S. agricultural lands are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S Secretary of Agriculture through the FSA. Agricultural land is land used for farming, ranching, or timber production. The report must be filed within 90 days of the transaction. Failure to file a report, filing a late or inaccurate report can result in fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the land.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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, genetic information, political beliefs, 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, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.