



November 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

CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

CAP is a special one-time disaster program which began October 25 and runs through December 9, 2010. Its purpose is to help restore producer purchasing power that was diminished by 2009 crop year losses. The program is only available in counties that had a 2009 primary Secretarial Disaster Designation for excessive moisture and associated conditions. In southeast Kansas, this covered just Cherokee, Bourbon, and Montgomery counties.

County land administratively carried in a neighboring county will be eligible, though. The farm owners and operators may file in the county office where the farm records are kept.

Participation in Cherokee County is limited to soybeans. Eligibility is based on a 5 percent loss on total production PER FSA FARM NUMBER of the soybeans for the 2009 year. Signup is done by certifying to the loss, but producers are expected to keep verifiable records of the loss for 5 years in case they are selected for spot check.

The preliminary payment rate for soybeans is \$15.62 per acre. Seventy-five percent of this is payable in advance, with the possibility of the remaining twenty-five percent being paid at program end depending on total program participation.

Adjusted Gross Income filing and Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands compliance will apply to this program. A major difference between this disaster program and the SURE permanent disaster program is that producers are not required to have had crop insurance on their 2009 soybean crop in order to be eligible for CAP.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots in the Cherokee County FSA Committee election were mailed to all known eligible voters on Nov. 5. Voted ballots must be returned in person or post marked by no later than Dec. 6. Eligible voters who did not receive a ballot may request one at the county office.

County committee members provide input and make important decisions on the local administration of disaster and conservation programs. All producers, and particularly minority and women producers are encouraged to vote and get involved in county committee elections so that county committees fairly represent the producers of the county.

This year voters in Sheridan, Ross, Mineral, Cherokee, and Pleasant View townships are choosing a member for the county committee. To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote.

The newly elected committee member and alternates chosen this election will take office on January 1, 2011.

ACREAGE REPORTING

The software is available, and we are currently taking wheat and other small grain acreage reports. The last day to report small grains is June 1, 2011. You may want to report now when you sign up for DCP or ACRE or when you come in to check on the CAP. If you have more than a couple farms, we would appreciate it if you would call for an appointment to report.

Acreage reports serve as the basis for many determinations under DCP, ACRE, SURE, CAP, CRP, NAP and other programs. It's important to be sure that your reports are accurate and complete for all FARMLAND, including pasture ground. Remember, it may not be possible to late file or correct an acreage report record if a mistake or omission is discovered after the reporting dates for the year have passed.



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.

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup's underway for DCP and ACRE options of the farm program. DCP & ACRE producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. (Advance direct payments may be requested at 22 per cent of the total direct payment). Counter-cyclical DCP payments will be issued when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

ACRE is an option based on revenue losses. It replaces the price-based DCP safety net of counter-cyclical payments. Payment is issued when both the state and the farm have revenue losses. ACRE reduces direct payment by 20 per cent, and crop loan rates by 30 percent. ACRE once chosen is irrevocable thru 2012.



LIP CHANGE ON EXTREME COLD

After much review of weather records and other documentary evidence, the Kansas State FSA Committee has determined that NO ADULT ANIMALS of any species in Kansas will be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) if the deaths were caused by extreme cold. Adult animals may still be eligible for LIP if the death losses were due to other approved adverse weather events such as blizzards or winter storms when associated with extreme cold.

To prepare for documenting weather event and normal mortality deaths, it is best to have verifiable beginning inventory records for the calendar year (i.e, IRS schedule F, Farm Management records, loan collateral records, measurement service) supplemented by a running record of purchases, sales, and deaths. We recommend having a vet see the dead animal where found and before it has been moved. He or she can then document the death and the probable cause of loss.

FSA's NEW CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM (CL)

The CL provides producers extra resources to utilize conservation techniques. Funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS. Examples are installing conservation structures, or water conservation measures, establishing/improving permanent pasture; or implementing manure management.

Direct CLs have loan limits up to \$300,000. Current fixed interest rates are 4.125%. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are also available. CL eligibility was broadened to permit FSA to help applicants who may be larger and financially strong. For details, please contact farm loan program personnel at 620-724-6227, Ext229.

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1	Last day to obtain NAP coverage on all grasses, mixed forage, lespedeza, alfalfa, clover, vetch, and most fruits. Reminder: in most cases you must have NAP coverage to be eligible for permanent disaster programs.
Dec. 24 & 31	Office closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION

FSA is phasing in a method for handling producer checks in order to process collections faster. Producer checks presented in person or by mail will be converted to an Electronic Funds Transfer, which will debit the producer's account within 24 hours.

CROP LOAN AVAILABILITY

Producers may retain ownership of their grain but still get operating capital by taking out a crop loan. Loan rates for Cherokee County are as follows: Corn, \$2.10/bu., Grain Sorghum, \$3.49/cwt.; Soybeans, \$4.96/bu.; Wheat (SRW), \$1.74/bu.; and Wheat (HRW), \$2.79/bu.

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