



Clark/Comanche County Farm Service Agency

March 2011

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Hours

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

Office Staff

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Brandon Baugh,
Farm Loan Officer
Sheryl Golden,
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County Committee

Mick Johnson
Mark Luckie
Lee Snell
Randy Selzer
David Hubbard
Ellen Betschart, Advisor

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Clark/Comanche County Committee

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The members, by Local Administrative Area(LAA), of the Clark/Comanche County Committee are as follows:

LAA 1: Chairman of the Committee, Mick Johnson grew up in Minneola, KS and operates the family farm, Johnson Land & Cattle. It is a farming and cattle operation. They grow wheat and milo and run a few head of cattle.

LAA 2: Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mark Luckie is a member of Snake Creek Ranch. Snake Creek Ranch was established in 1923 and they run around 700 Black Angus cattle. Mark was raised on a farm around Buffalo, OK. Mark has two sons and a granddaughter.

LAA 3: Lee Snell grew up on a farm in Harper County, OK and moved to Ashland in 1970. He maintains farming and cattle interest in Oklahoma and Kansas. Lee and his brother still have a partnership in Oklahoma and is going strong with the help of his grandsons in Kansas.

LAA 4: Randy Selzer was born and raised in Comanche County. Randy and his wife, Sally farm in the Protection/Coldwater area where they raise wheat, milo and alfalfa. They have a son and daughter in college.

LAA 5: David Hubbard was raised in the Coldwater/Wilmore area. He manages

Oller Farms, Inc in Buttermilk. He also has a ranching operation. He has a son and daughter, grandson and granddaughter.

Advisor: Ellen Betschart and her husband Frantz have a starter feed yard that holds 1,000 head of cattle located SW of Ashland. They bring calves weighing 250-500 pounds in to the yards, process them, get them started on feed, doctor them as needed and keep them approximately 30 days. They also have a farm/ranch operation of 1300 acres; crops grown are utilized through the cattle. Ellen enjoys baking and decorating cakes, gardening and keeping up with grandkids and great grandkids.

Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Annual crop report deadlines vary based on region, crop, permanent vs. annual crop type, NAP or non-NAP crop and fall or winter seeding. Deadline to certify wheat is May 31, 2011.

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through June 1 each year. If you elect the ACRE option, you are committed to this option through 2012, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Each year you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this online service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. 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. The general sign-up for CRP will not affect cropped acres for this growing season. Acres will be enrolled in the program in the fall.

CRP Signup Informational Meetings

- March 14, 2011 - Minneola Coop – 9:00 am
- March 15, 2011 – Ashland Library – 9:00 am
- March 15, 2011 – Don’s Place – 2:00 pm

General Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. 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 \$1,094,000.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detailed information regarding loans and loan eligibility, contact the county office for an appointment with a farm loan representative.

Farm Operating Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, equipment and livestock purchases.

Farm Ownership loans can be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, or construct essential farm buildings and improvements

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. Deadline for enrollment in SURE is announced annually. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. The signup period for the 2009 SURE Program is January 10, 2011-July 29, 2011.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop’s application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Final date to apply for NAP coverage on coarse grains and feed crops
April 15	Final date for General CRP Signup
May 31	Final Date to certify small grains
June 1	Final date for 2011 DCP and ACRE signup
July 29	Final date to apply for 2009 SURE