



COFFEY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

313 Cross Street
Burlington, KS 66839
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HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Closed

Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 24 – Christmas Day
Observed
Dec 31 – New Year's Day
Observed

County Committee

Bonnie Davies
John Henry Rolf

Meetings- 2nd Wednesday of every month

Staff

Kim Specht, PT
Vicki Fry, PT
Vickie Wolford, PT
Megan Wilson, PT

Loan Manager

Stacy Kull

Executive Director

Marilyn Glissman

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COFFEY COUNTY FSA NEWS

November 2010



Producer Appreciation Day December 7th

The Coffey County USDA Service Center is hosting their annual Producer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, December 7, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please stop by and join us for refreshments and holiday cheer. The Service Center staff wishes to express their appreciation to Coffey County producers and ag-related businesses for another year of cooperation in serving area farmers and ranchers.

County Committee Elections

Coffey County Farm Service Agency is holding County Committee elections in Local Administrative Areas 1 & 2, which include the northern and western parts of the county. The borders for LAA 1 are as follows: western border - Lyon County line (Angus Rd); southern border - 16th Rd from Angus to Oxen, then north on Oxen Rd to 22nd Rd, and east on 22nd to the Anderson County line (Yearling Rd); northern border - Osage County line (28th Rd). This LAA includes the cities of Lebo and Waverly. The borders for LAA 2 are as follows: western border - Lyon County line (Angus Rd); southern border - Woodson County line (1st Rd); eastern border - Oxen Rd from 1st Rd to 16th Rd; northern border - 16th Rd. This LAA includes the cities of Burlington and Gridley.

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters on November 5, 2010. If you have a farming interest in this area and didn't receive a ballot, you may obtain one from the Coffey County FSA Office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the office by close of business December 6, 2010. Ballots will be tabulated in an open meeting at the Service Center on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at 8:00 am.

Crop Reporting

Producers are required to file form FSA-578 Certification (crop report), for the farm by the applicable final reporting date. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acres, is essential. If no FSA-578 is filed, it could cause loss of program benefits in DCP, ACRE, SURE Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs, and CRP. The deadline for small grains is May 31st.

Happy
Thanksgiving

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to our office, so farm records may be updated. For farm ownership changes you need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Operator changes must be verified by the landowner.

Foreign Land Ownership

Foreign owners of U. S. Agricultural land are required by Law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA Office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

Conservation Reserve Program Reminders

The following lists some of the general responsibilities and maintenance requirements of the CRP participant regarding terms of a CRP contract(s). These are general items and are not intended to be inclusive of all details or all of your responsibilities. Refer to your Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for specific guidelines. Compliance with all the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and monitoring the CRP practice(s) is the participant's responsibility.

- ✓ The practices, approved for your CRP contract, must be established by the specified deadline and maintained during the contract term, which includes control of undesirable vegetation. Maintenance activities may not be performed during the primary nesting season of April 15 through July 15. Contact this office if you have concerns regarding your practice, the practice status, or practice progression.
- ✓ Trees are prohibited on CRP unless it is in the CPO. To modify your plan you will need to visit with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). All stands must be maintained by mowing, burning or chemicals to control noxious weeds, trees etc.
- ✓ Haying, grazing or harvesting of CRP acres is not allowed. You may request to do managed haying and/or grazing on your CRP provided written approval by FSA is received before the activity begins. Specific provisions apply.
- ✓ Recreational hunting is permitted on CRP consistent with State law and bag limits for the appropriate game species.
- ✓ CRP acreage may not be used for storage of any type, such as equipment, hay, municipal waste, livestock waste/by products. Other prohibited use of CRP acreage includes but is not limited to the following:
 - Trash disposal areas
 - Parking and/or storage of machinery, hay, junked autos, etc
 - Livestock feed storage
 - Permanent road/trails
 - Oil gas wells, associated tanks and access roads, etc
 - Cosmetic mowing
 - Mowing of strips for hunting
 - Buildings or houses
- ✓ An annual certification of CRP compliance must be completed before August 1 by filing an acreage report on the FSA-578. This certification must be signed by the individual receiving the payment. An operator of the tillable acreage on the farm cannot sign this unless they receive a share of the CRP payment.
- ✓ FSA completes continuous random inspections throughout the year to ensure CRP contracts are in compliance with program provisions. Anytime a compliance issue occurs, the terms and conditions outlined under the CRP-1 Appendix and CRP regulations will be used to resolve the compliance issue that may include assessed penalties or contract termination.
- ✓ Required or voluntary management activities, to enhance the conservation practice, are available to be completed with cost-share assistance.

- ✓ Once under contract, planting and harvesting of agricultural commodities are not allowed even though you might be waiting for construction to begin. (For example on a grassed waterway or shallow water areas.)

If you desire to do any of the activities mentioned above, please visit with a member of the Coffey County FSA for full details. We want to work with you for the success of your CRP contract.

Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

NAP Application for Coverage Deadline is December 1, 2010

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all Grasses including Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch is **December 1, 2010**. The application and service fee is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county, and not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. The application and service fee must be filed by **December 1, 2010**. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

REMINDER: In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs you **MUST** purchase NAP coverage.

Prescribed Burn Workshop

A prescribed burn workshop will be held at the Kelley 4-H Building in Burlington on December 9, 2010 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Registration is free and begins at 9:30am. Materials and lunch will be provided.

Topics will include:

- Reasons for Burning
- Notification, Regulations & Permits
- Weather
- Liability
- Equipment, Hazards and Firebreaks
- Planning and Conducting a Burn

Pre-register by November 29th at 620-364-5313 or e-mail dhenson@ksu.edu. This event is sponsored by Coffey County Research and Extension.

