



## Coffey County Farm Service Agency

**February 2011**

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Burlington, KS 66839

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)

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

### Office Staff

Marilyn Glissman,  
County Executive Director  
Stacy Kull,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Kim Specht,  
Program Technician  
Vicki Fry,  
Program Technician  
Vickie Wolford,  
Program Technician  
Megan Wilson,  
Program Technician

### County Committee

John Henry Rolf  
Dustin Slead  
Glen Isch

Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month

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## County Committee Election Results

We are pleased to announce Dustin Slead was elected for a 3-year term and Glen Isch for a 2-year term to the local County Committee.

Congratulations Dustin and Glen!

## Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. The low interest rate changes monthly and is based on the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting upright and bunker silos, new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass, and new cold storage facilities suitable for storing the fruits and vegetables produced by the borrower. Loan limits are up to \$500,000. Loan terms: \$100,000 or less – 7 years; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 years; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 years. Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

## The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at your local FSA county office. Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event prior to October 1, 2011. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

## Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. 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.usd.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usd.gov) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

## 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. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

**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. These are general items and are not intended to be inclusive of all details/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.
- ✓ Trees are prohibited on CRP unless it is in the CPO. To modify your plan you will need to visit with NRCS. All stands must be maintained by mowing, burning or chemicals to control noxious weeds, trees etc. Producers need to review their CPO and determine what is required.
- ✓ 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, livestock waste/by products. Other prohibited use of CRP acreage includes but is not limited to the following:
  - Parking and/or storage of machinery
  - Livestock feed storage
  - Permanent road/trails
  - Oil gas wells, associated tanks and access roads
  - Cosmetic mowing/mowing strips for hunting
  - Buildings or houses
- ✓ An annual certification of CRP compliance must be completed before August 1 by filing an acreage report. This certification must be signed by the individual receiving the CRP payment
- ✓ FSA completes random inspection 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.

**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

**Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

**General CRP Signup**

A general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup will be held from March 14 to April 15, 2011. Land not currently enrolled in CRP and CRP contracts scheduled to expire September 30, 2011 may submit offers. To be eligible producers must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months and the land must have been planted or considered to be planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007. The number of acres accepted will be determined after the signup concludes based on the environmental benefits and cost of the acres offered. To find out all the details contact our office.

**Dates to Remember**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 21 | Office Closed – President's Day  |
| March 14    | General CRP Signup begins  |
| March 31    | Final date to request Marketing Assistance Loan on wheat, barley, and oats |
| April 15    | General CRP Signup ends  |
| May 30      | Small Grain Acreage Report Deadline  |
| June 1      | Final signup date for 2011 DCP/ACRE  |
| Ongoing     | Farm Storage Facility Loans  |
| Ongoing     | Continuous CRP   |