



Cowley County FSA News



DECEMBER 2010

Cowley County FSA

2118 East 9th Ave
Winfield, KS 67156-3318
TEL: (620) 221-2060
FAX: (620) 221-4162

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Casey Woner, Chairperson
Brad McMinn, Vice-Chairperson
Vic McClung, Member
Beverly Reiter, Advisor

COC meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 9:00 a.m.

Employee Information

Linda A Ellis, County Exec Director
Jaimie Bannister, Program Technician
Pamala Bain, Program Technician
Bonnie Miller, Program Technician
Lesly Fair, Program Technician
Denise Noonan, Field Assistant
Lynn Reed, Field Assistant
Gary Nuss, Farm Loan Manager
Nick Bergkamp, Farm Loan Officer
Vickie Thiel, Program Technician



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2010
Wheat	\$2.78/bu
Corn	\$2.09/bu
Soybeans	\$4.92/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.47/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.98/cwt

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to report the changes to the FSA Office **within 30 days** from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.



Mark Your Calendars

Dates the FSA offices will be closed:

Dec 24 – Christmas Holiday
Dec 31 – New Year Holiday
Jan 17 – Martin Luther King

2011 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Producers can call for an appointment to certify and signup. DCP Program payments are computed using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22% of the direct payment. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, no counter-cyclical payments will be earned, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in ACRE is irrevocable and once enrolled; the farm shall be enrolled for that crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. **The deadline for enrolling in DCP or ACRE is June 1, 2011 and FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.**

Crop Assistance Program (CAP)

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that disaster payments are available for certain producers of 2009 upland cotton and soybeans that suffered a 5 percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions. The Crop Assistance Program (CAP) will make payments available to producers of upland cotton and soybeans in counties that received Secretarial disaster designations for excess moisture in 2009. Eligible counties in Kansas include: Bourbon, **Chautauqua**, Cherokee, Cheyenne, **Cowley**, Hamilton, Haskell, Meade, Montgomery, Rice, Sherman, Stevens, and **Sumner**. The crop must have been physically located in an eligible county to be eligible for payment. Producers will receive a payment based on the planted and considered planted acres of the crop. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program with producer initially receiving 75% of their CAP payment. The predetermined payment rates are \$15.62 per acre for soybeans and \$17.70 per acre for upland cotton. **Signup for CAP ends December 9, 2010.**

ATTENTION FARM LOAN BORROWERS

Your payment is credited to your account on the day it is received in the county; with no regard to post marks. With January 1st falling on Saturday, the official federal holiday will be observed on December 31st. To be given credit for payments in the calendar year your payment must be received in the county office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 30TH**.

If you have questions or would like additional details, please contact Gary or Nick at the address or phone number above.

CHANGING BANKS

Payments made electronically using Direct Deposit has cut down on the number of missing or late payments. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Foreign Investors

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction **within 90 days** of the date of the transaction.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office. 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.

AGI COMPLIANCE

In December 2009, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) formed a partnership to ensure that only those participants who comply with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements receive farm program benefits. In order to verify eligibility for farm program benefits, producers were required to complete a consent form to allow the IRS to verify certification as made to FSA.

Producers who have not filed the required CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 for 2009 and 2010 were recently notified. Producer who received a notice from FSA that the required forms have not been filed should ensure the forms are filed immediately. Forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc927> for individuals and <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc928> for legal entities. Producers must mail the consent forms directly to the IRS.

If you will receive payment for 2011 the CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 forms will need to be completed and submitted for 2011 also. These forms are required to be completed for each year a payment is received.

COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballot's for this year's county committee elections were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the county office by close of business on December 6, 2010, or if mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

Candidates for this year's election in LAA 1 are:

Casey Woner and Dwaine Waite

Ballots will be counted Monday, December 13, 2010, at the USDA Service Center, 2118 East 9th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156, at 9:30 a.m.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses may only sign loan documents on behalf of each other if there is a Power of Attorney on file.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll-free (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."