



Cowley County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

2118 E 9th Suite A
Winfield, KS 67156-3318

PH (620) 221-2060
FAX (620) 221-4162
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

Office Staff

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

County Committee

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



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2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) Signup

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year SURE program began January 10 and will continue through July 29, 2011. SURE is one of five disaster programs included in the 2009 Farm Bill that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters. FSA encourages producers who suffered crop losses during the 2009 crop year to visit the local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program. To be eligible for SURE a farm must have: 1) at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance. 2) A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. 3) Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Producers in counties without this disaster designation may be eligible if actual production on the total farm is less than 50% of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. If interested, producers are asked to contact the FSA Office to discuss the requirements and set up an appointment.

SORGHUM CHECKOFF REFERENDUM

The USDA has finalized procedures for the referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Check off Program. For the program to continue, the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than 3 years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. The order requires a simple majority vote in the referendum for the program to continue.

USDA will conduct the referendum February 1 through February 28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage. Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.



CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 41

USDA has announced a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during signup if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011.

All CRP offers are evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that indicated the environmental benefits of enrolling land in CRP. There are five environmental factors that make up the EBI: wildlife, water, soil, air, enduring benefits and cost. Decisions will be made following the end of the signup period and after analyzing EBI data on all of the offers.

In addition to the general signup, the continuous CRP signup program will be on going.

Please call the office to make an appointment to come in and discuss possibility of enrolling in the General CRP signup.

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.

2011 DCP-ACRE Program

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 sign up.

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.

Low Interest Farm Loans Available

FSA has low interest farm loans available to those who are unable to obtain commercial credit through the local lender. Loans for the purchase of real estate, livestock, machinery, or to pay operating expenses are available now through FSA at interest rates ranging from 1.5 to 4.75% (fixed).

FSA loan programs are available to all eligible farm operators. FSA does have special loan programs for Social Disadvantaged Applicants, beginning farmers and rural youth ages 10 to 20 years old.

If you would like to know how you can take advantage of FSA Farm Loan Programs, please contact Gary or Nick at (620) 221-2060 or at the address above.



2011 Crop Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the May 31 deadline on small grains and an August 1 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

2011 COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

County Committee election was held this past December in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. Resulting from that election is re-elected committee member, Casey Woner. He will serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2011.

2011 County Committee Meetings

Regular County FSA Committee meetings for the 2011 calendar year have been established as the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 9:00 AM. Regular FSA county committee meetings are open to the public.

Dates to Remember	
March 31	Request 2010 Wheat Loan
May 31	Certify 2011 Small Grain Acres
June 1	Signup in DCP / ACRES
Feb 21	Office Closed – Presidents Day