

County Committee:

Carolyn Michael, Chairperson
Joe Murphy, Vice-Chairperson
Larry Richard, Member
*(Committee meets 2nd Thursday of each month
at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center)*

US Department of Agriculture

Crawford County FSA Office
207 S. Summit, Girard, KS 66743
Ph: (620) 724-6227
FAX: (620) 724-6201
Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm

NOVEMBER 2010

Judy A. Jacquinet
County Executive Director

Wheat Certification



In an attempt to get all producers certified in a timely manner and reduce the time you actually spend waiting in our office, the office has begun taking wheat acreage reports for the 2011 crop year acreages. Report your wheat as soon as it is planted. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. An FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must be filed for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The acreage certification deadlines for all acreage are:

Acreage Certification Deadlines:

- Small Grains for Grain -May 31
- Small Grains for Grazing -15 days prior to grazing
- Small Grains for Haying -15 days prior to haying
- Spring Seeded Crops -August 1
- CRP -August 1
- NAP -August 1 or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing for all other crops.

TIMELY REPORT PREVENTED PLANTING

Producers must report prevented planted acres within 15 calendar days after the crop's final planting date and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss. Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Livestock Programs

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation for livestock deaths, in excess of normal mortality, that result from an approved adverse weather event. File Notice of Loss within 30 days of when loss is apparent. File Application for Payment by Jan 30 of the following year.



2011 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is underway and will continue through June 1, 2011. All required DCP/ACRE signatures must be received by June 1, 2011. There will be no late file provisions.



Direct & Counter-cyclical Program
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. You may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

FSA COC Election

County Committee Members serve three-year terms. Committees consist of three members who are elected by eligible local producers. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 5, 2010. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 6, 2010.



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fees by the application closing date. Producers must have NAP coverage on all noninsurable crops to be eligible for supplemental disaster assistance programs (SURE).

Application Closing Dates:

- September 1-aquaculture, canola, Christmas trees, nursery crops, turf grass sod, and all small grain crops, except oats.
- December 1 -all grasses, alfalfa, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, clover, grapes, lespedeza, honey, mixed forage, nectarines, oats, peaches, plums, strawberries, and vetch.
- January 1-apples and pears.
- March 15-coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts.

NAP Service Fees:

\$250 per crop; \$750 per county; \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Risk Management Protection Requirement:

Must purchase crop insurance on insurable crops and NAP coverage on non-insurable crops to remain eligible for supplemental disaster assistance programs.

2010 Commodity Loan Rates

Commodity loans for grain harvested in 2010 are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. Listed below are the rates for Crawford County:

Corn	\$2.07/bu	Grain Sorghum	\$3.50/cwt
Soybeans	\$4.99/bu	Wheat HRW	\$2.79/bu
		Wheat SRW	\$1.74/bu

Commodity loan terms include: 9 months term, fixed low interest rate but is updated on January 1, if applicable. Loan can be repaid at any time prior to the 9 month term, repayment options include: principal plus interest, posted county price, or forfeiture.



FSA ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Farm Service Agency has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

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 local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. FSA is presently offering fixed interest rates for these loans of 4.125%. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. Applicants in a strong financial position may qualify for a streamlined application process.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227, Ext 229. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm 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 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, 2011** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

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.

CRP Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. Enrollment in Kansas State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) continues. SAFE is a component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).



Foreign Landowner 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. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Dates to Remember

November 5	County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible producers
December 6	Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office
Continues	Livestock Indemnity Program: File notice of loss within 30 days of when loss is apparent.
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (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."