

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

December 2010

Judy A. Jacquinot
County Executive Director



Wheat Certification

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 & FAILED ACREAGE

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.

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup

The enrollment period for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) ends on June 1, 2011.



The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed).

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) 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. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. 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, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):

The 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).

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

March 15 Deadline - coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sunflowers, sesame, squash, and walnuts

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.



Marketing Assistance Loans

Commodity loans are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. You must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan. Loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm & ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade & quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence & in a storable condition & be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program



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 new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's 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 FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009, 2010 or 2011 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009, 2010 and 2011 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009/2010/2011 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it.

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.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe.