



## Crawford County Farm Service Agency

April 2011

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### Hours

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

### Office Staff

Judy A. Jacquinet,  
County Executive Director  
Robert White,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Jason Love,  
Farm Loan Officer  
Loretta Bailey,  
Program Technician  
Debora Bolin,  
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Barbara Brown,  
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Donna Little,  
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### County Committee

Carolyn Michael  
Larry Richard  
Steve Murphy  
(Committee meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 8:30 am in the  
USDA Service Center)

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## General Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program

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

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up 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. Contact your FSA office for an appointment to discuss your CRP signup options.

In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

### ACTIVELY ENGAGED

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

### DCP SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% are available. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011.

### THE ACRE OPTION

The Average Crop Revenue Election (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. 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 statutory for all participants

### SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

**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.

Report your wheat as soon as it is planted. 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. 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

If you participated in NAP in previous years, you are required to report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

**LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

*Several programs may be available to assist livestock producers who are dealing with problems caused by the winter weather. Producers need to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of these winter storms. Proof of death documentation is needed. There are three methods for Proof of Death:*

- Verifiable documents – no inventory
- Producer Reliable records with inventory
- Third Party Certification with inventory. (Form FSA926)

For livestock death losses to be eligible under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), producers must file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer.

**MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS**

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and 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. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Final availability dates for MAL's and Loan Deficiency Payments:

- March 31-Honey, Oats, Barley, Wheat
- May 31-Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Rice, Soybeans

**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. Participants are required to provide a minimum 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. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. 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.

Dates to Remember	
April 15	CRP General Signup ends
May 31	Report wheat (small grains)
June 01	DCP/ACRE signup ends
July 29	SURE Signup ends
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program