



Crawford County Farm Service Agency

May 2011

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

Office Staff

Judy A. Jacquinet,
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Farm Loan Manager
Jason Love,
Farm Loan Officer
Loretta Bailey,
Program Technician
Debora Bolin,
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Barbara Brown,
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Anna Goble,
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County Committee

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

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PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

USDA announced a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov or calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.



ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

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 to be certified by May 31 for small grains and August 1 on all other crops and CRP acres.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

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.

NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.



DCP SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are available and the remaining 78% of the payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. 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.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

FSA administers several programs that may be available to assist livestock producers who are dealing with problems caused by natural disasters. Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). For livestock death losses to be eligible under 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.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

FSA TARGETS FUNDS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities. Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders or Alaskan Natives. While funding is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years. The April, 2011 direct operating loan interest rate is 2.75%.

Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct ownership loan terms are up to 40 years while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender. The April, 2011 direct farm ownership rate is 5%. Farm Ownership loans utilizing a combination of Direct and commercial financing are available at 1.5%.

For more information, contact Farm Service Agency at 207 S. Summit, Girard, Kansas 66743 or call 620-724-6227, Extension 229.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME



USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service to avoid interruption of program benefits.

These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:
<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.



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	
May 31	Report wheat (small grains)
May 31	Final loan availability date for corn, sorghum soybeans, cotton
June 01	DCP/ACRE signup ends
July 29	SURE Signup ends
August 1	Report all other crops and CRP acres
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program