

# ELLSWORTH COUNTY FSA NEWS

August 2010

## Ellsworth County FSA Office

402 W 15<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 2  
Ellsworth, KS 67439-1623  
Phone: (785) 472-3161  
Fax: (785) 472-5248



## County Committee Members

Frank Toman, Chairperson  
Dan Johnson, Vice Chairperson  
Karen Grothusen, Advisor

[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)

*The Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of each month*

*8:00 a.m.*

### Office Staff

Michael Martin

Carmen Homeier

Joan Weinhold

Alice Soukup

Linda Davis

**Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:00 am – 4:30 pm**

## General CRP sign-up underway

FSA will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from August 2 through August 27, 2010. The sign-up period is limited to four weeks. FSA encourages producers to call and make an appointment for CRP sign-up.

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP, such as cropland and expired CRP, may be offered during CRP sign-up. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on September 30, 2010, may submit offers. To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible.

FSA will rank offers for CRP sign-up according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information, and desired conservation practice) on environmental indices for the land offered. FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects from that ranking. After the sign-up, the Secretary will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up.

Call or stop by the Ellsworth County FSA office, 785-472-3161, to schedule an appointment for CRP sign-up today.

## 2008 SURE sign-up deadline is September 30

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) program applications must be filed by September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment. There are no provisions for late-filed applications. There will be no other application period or sign-up announced or held for 2008 SURE program payments.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

## SURE deadline continued...

To be eligible for SURE, producers in primary or contiguous counties with a 2008 Secretarial Disaster Designation must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops.

For 2008, Ellsworth County received a Secretarial Disaster Designation because of the extreme losses from the June hail storm. To date, the Ellsworth County FSA office has paid \$381,040 in SURE disaster assistance to producers who qualified. Producers who think they may qualify for disaster benefits should contact the FSA office, 785-472-3161, as soon as possible to file an application before the September 30, 2010 deadline.

## Disaster program available for livestock deaths

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality as a result of adverse weather. Eligible disaster conditions may include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

Eligible livestock include: livestock owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day of death, been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day of death, died as a direct result of an adverse weather event, and be one of the following: adult/non-adult beef cattle, adult/non-adult beefalo, adult/non-adult buffalo, adult/non-adult dairy cattle, elk, alpacas, deer, emus, equine animals, goats, llamas, poultry (including egg producing poultry), reindeer, sheep, and swine.

Producers will need to provide documentation detailing the proof of death to indicate that the livestock deaths are a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. It will also be necessary for producers to provide documents detailing the quantity and kind, type, and weight range of livestock that died as a result of the adverse weather event. Documentation may include, but is not limited to the following: bank or other loan documents, FEMA records, tax records, National Guard records, private insurance documents, production records, property tax records, purchase records, rendering truck receipts, veterinarian records, and written contracts.

In the event verifiable documentation is not available, producers will be required to present reliable records documenting the proof of death along with verifiable beginning and ending livestock inventory.

### **CRP managed haying/grazing reminders**

Haying and grazing on CRP acres is not authorized unless specified in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).

Several producers utilize the managed haying or grazing management practice on CRP contracts as part of their CPO. Producers who are conducting managed haying or grazing activities this year need to remember the following dates:

- Haying: permitted from **July 16 – August 15**
- Haying: report hayed acres to FSA by **September 14**
- Haying: remove bales by **September 14**
- Grazing: permitted from July 16, not to exceed 120 consecutive days or limited by forage plan
- Grazing: livestock must be removed immediately upon completion of the required grazing period or upon the residue reaching the desired height

### **Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program**

Numerous changes were included in the 2008 Farm Bill regarding the FSFL program. Eligible commodities under the new law include hay, renewable biomass, and various fruits and vegetables. FSFL maximum loan amount was increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Loan terms may be extended from seven years up to ten or twelve years, depending on the loan principal amount borrowed.

The loan application fee has increased to \$100 per borrower on FSFL. This fee is non-refundable. Multi-peril crop insurance or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required on all commodities stored in the FSFL-funded facility. For more detailed information regarding FSFL changes contact the Ellsworth County FSA office.

### **September 1 is NAP application closing date**

September 1, 2010 is the application closing date for Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Turf Grass Sod, and all Small Grain Crops, except Oats, under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those crops not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

September 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for. Continuous Crop Wheat with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for NAP. Coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater. Administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

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### **NAP continued...**

administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer and \$1,875 maximum fee for multi-county producers.

### **Transition Incentives Program**

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign up began on May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in CRP that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP provided all of the following apply:

- The land has not been sold or leased before signing a CRP-TIP Contract
- Producers are otherwise eligible under TIP provisions

The conservation plan is modified to require sustainable grazing or crop production methods

### **Special Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.