



Graham County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

100 N 12th Ave
Hill City, KS 67642

PH (785) 421-2115
FAX (785) 421-2376
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

Office Staff

Verl Kennedy ,
County Executive Director
Shelly Radcliffe,
Program Technician
Carl Quint,
Program Technician
Jamaca Battin,
Program Technician
Dana Tremblay,
Program Technician
Randy Thiel,
Farm Loan Manager
Josh Hagenmaier,
Farm Loan Officer
Jeanne Shipley,
Program Technician
Erin Rogers,
Program Technician

County Committee

Stanley Brandyberry,
Chairperson
Gil Alexander,
Vice Chairperson
Ben Dale Hunsicker,
Member

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, audiotope, 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

General CRP Signup #41

General CRP Signup #41 begins March 14, 2011 and runs through April 15, 2011. An informational meeting will be held at the Frontier Stage in Hill City on March 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The Frontier Stage is located 5 blocks east of the stoplight in Hill City on the south side of Highway 24. Most of Graham County is in a priority area, which will increase the chances of those offers being accepted. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Verl Kennedy at 785 421-2115, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and verl.kennedy@ks.usda.gov by Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Report Your Wheat Acres

May 31, 2011 is the final date to timely report your planted acres of wheat, barley, triticale and oats. Acreage reporting is required by the DCP and ACRE programs. It is also a requirement of commodity loans and LDPs. CRP eligibility also requires annual acreage reports, along with the NAP program. With the CRP signup taking up a month of this remaining time before the deadline, we encourage producers to perform this annual task at their earliest convenience, instead of being caught in long lines during or after the CRP signup.

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2011 DCP and ACRE programs is currently underway. Producers who have enrolled may receive 22% of the annual payment in advance of the October final payments. The producer may elect to receive these advance payments in any month from the time all signatures are obtained and the end of the fiscal year. The farm program contract (CCC-509) requires all owners and operators to sign the form. The final date to return signatures is June 1, 2011.

Ben Dale Hunsicker

Congratulations to Ben Dale Hunsicker who was elected to the Graham County Committee during the election held last December. Ben will represent the western third of the county for the next three years. We would like to thank Fritz Dreiling and Troy Tremblay for their past service on the county committee representing this area. The Graham County Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

2009 SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 SURE program is currently underway and will continue through July 29, 2011. Under this program producers are reimbursed for losses incurred during the 2009 crop year. Graham County was not a secretarial designated disaster county in 2009, nor was it contiguous to a designated county, so producers must have a 50% loss in revenue on a whole farm basis in order to be eligible for payments. A requirement of the SURE program is that all crops of economic significance are covered by insurance or NAP.

NAP Sales Closing Date Approaches

March 15, 2011 is the final date to purchase a NAP policy on forage sorghum and dual purpose forage sorghum. With the SURE program being authorized by the current farm bill, producers will want to take another look at insuring their feed crops. If your feed crop is worth 5% or more of your expected revenue of your farm, the crop must be insured under a NAP policy in order for you to be eligible for the SURE program. While there is snow currently on the ground, I do not believe it will replace the topsoil and subsoil moisture lost over the last several months of below normal precipitation. A change this year is that feed acres intended to be chopped for silage is no longer covered under NAP. Insurance on these silage acres must be purchased up town through your RMA insurance provider.

Farm Stored Facility Loans

We are getting more and more interest in the Farm Stored Facility Loan program. Under this program we issue low interest loans to participants to erect new farm storage. The program requires at least a 15% down payment, and loans over \$50,000 must be secured by real estate. The current interest rate is 2.75% on a 7 year fixed note. Larger loans may be stretched out for 10 or 12 year repayments, but the interest rate does increase to 3.375 and 3.625% respectively. Producers wishing to apply for a Facility loan will need to provide current financial information in the form of cash flows and balance sheets, an estimate for the cost of the bins to be erected and a \$100 application fee. We can also loan on hay storage, silage pits, and cold storage for vegetables under this program.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland, equipment, livestock, finance agricultural input expenses and refinance some types of existing agricultural debt. FSA has a program to assist nearly every farm operator including beginning farmers, members of socially disadvantaged groups, financially distressed operators, or anyone needing financial assistance for a qualifying agricultural purpose. Some common loan programs you may have heard or read about are rural youth loans, beginning farmer loans, direct or guaranteed farm ownership loans, direct or guaranteed operating loans, and a new conservation loan program released late last year.

FSA loans generally offer lower interest rates, lower collateral requirements and longer repayment terms than standard commercial credit. Most FSA interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan. Operating term loans to finance machinery or livestock can be made up to a maximum of \$300,000 for 7 years with a current fixed rate of 2.25% (February rate). Farm ownership loans for real estate purchases or development can be made for a maximum of \$300,000 for up to 40 years with a current fixed rate of 4.75% (February rate). Beginning farmer real estate interest rates can be as low as 1.5%. Interest rates vary slightly each month. Your interest rate would be the rate available on the day your loan is approved or the rate on the date of loan closing, whichever is lower. FSA has numerous loan combinations and loan limitations up to a combined level of \$1,919,000.00 for 2011.

Contact FSA-Farm Loan Programs to discuss your particular situation, review eligibility requirements, and see how we can assist you with your financial needs. Farm Loans is headquartered in Hill City and serves Trego, Graham, Sheridan, Ellis and Rooks Counties.

CRP SAFE Acres

Producers with small environmentally sensitive or erodible, or less productive spots in larger fields may want to check on the CRP SAFE practice. The SAFE practice stands for state acres for wildlife enhancement. Five acres or 20% of a field, whichever is larger, may be enrolled in the SAFE. These acres are planted to grass and their main focus is to provide nesting habitat for upland birds. Irrigated pivot corners may be enrolled in their entirety. Producers earn annual rental payments based upon the soil types of the soils being offered, earn cost share equal to 90% of last year's average cost when all incentives are applied, and also earn a signup incentive of a one-time payment equal to \$100 per acre for each acre enrolled.

Many Burns Planned for this Spring

A number of local CRP participants have elected a practice that requires a burn this spring. The Graham County Emergency Services has put out some regulations for Agricultural burns this spring. One is that you must contact their office prior to igniting the burn. A second regulation is to limit the number of burns in the county to allow for safe response in the instance of a fire becoming uncontrolled. This regulation will require CRP participants to soon get started on these burns. As we are all aware, the wind will probably blow a day or two between now and April 15th, so please get your land preparations completed as soon as possible and get your burns done early so these CRP contracts will not have to be terminated and monetary penalties applied.

Adjusted Gross Income

The IRS and FSA joined forces last year to ensure program payments are not being issued to producers who exceed the Adjusted Gross Income provisions of the farm bill. All producers that earn USDA benefits must complete a CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement and return this form to the County Office. Producers must also complete either a CCC-927, Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information – Individual, or CCC-928, consent to Disclosure of Tax Information – Legal Entity, and return these forms to the Internal Revenue Service at the address on the form. Individuals who earn payments indirectly through a participating entity must also file individual reports with the IRS. Failure to do so will require repayment of past benefits received.

Dates to Remember

3/2/2011	CRP Informational meeting 7:00 pm
3/14/2011	General CRP Signup #41 starts
3/15/2011	Last day to buy NAP on Feed
4/15/2011	Final Day of General CRP Signup #41
5/31/2011	Final Wheat, Barley, and Oats reporting date
6/1/2011	Final date to sign into DCP or ACRE
7/29/2011	Final date of 2009 SURE signup
8/1/2011	Final feed grain reporting date