



## Harper County Farm Service Agency

### May 2011

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Anthony, KS 67003

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

### Office Staff

T.C. Dawson,  
County Executive Director  
Limual Vinson,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Amy Theurer,  
Farm Loan Officer  
TaLana Burkholder,  
Program Technician  
Teryl Reed,  
Program Technician  
Nanci Marshall,  
Program Technician  
Jyl Riebel,  
Program Technician

### County Committee

Marjorie Cartmill, Chairperson  
Don Gill, Vice Chairperson  
Larry Easter, Regular Member

### Regular Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
beginning at 8:00am

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## DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) ends on June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract. June 1 is also the final date to return all signatures for producers with a share greater than zero.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

## Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. A total farm acreage report is required for producers interested in a Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program Payment, including grass acreage which the producer has an interest.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

**Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 1 for small grains, and August 1 for spring seeded crops.**

## 2010 COC Election:

Candidates:	Votes Counted
Larry Easter	80
Bruce Oliver	25
Ronnie Blubaugh	1

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

The sign up period for the 2009 SURE program ends on July 29, 2011.

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**Farm Reconstitutions**

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

**Sodbuster Regulations**

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.



**Rural Youth Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

**Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- be 10 years to 20 years of age
- comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements
- reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- be unable to get a loan from other sources
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.



Dates to Remember	
May 30	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Acreage Certification deadline for small grain
June 1	Final signup date for DCP/ACRE programs
July 29	Final signup date for 2009 SURE
August 1	Acreage Certification for spring seeded crops, grass, and CRP. Final date to request FY 2011 Reconstitution.
September 1	NAP Application Closing date for small grain crops except oats
December 1	NAP Application Closing date for alfalfa, native grass, oats, and mixed forage