



NEWSLETTER



Jefferson/Leavenworth/ Wyandotte County Farm Service Agency

January, 2011

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Hours

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

Office Staff

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County Committee

Jim O'Trimble
Mark Meinke
Chris McClelland
Tom Schwinn
Daryl Sales
Sharon Smith, COC Advisor

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COC Election Results

County Committee elections were recently held in Local Administrative Areas 1 and 5. Congratulations go to our newest member, Daryl Sales of Valley Falls who was elected to represent the producers in Jefferson County townships Delaware, Norton and Jefferson and to Mark Meinke who was re-elected to represent producers in Leavenworth County south of County Road 8 and all of Wyandotte County. Other members of the county committee are Jim O'Trimble, Chris McClelland, and Tom Schwinn. Sharon Smith currently serves as the minority advisor. Together they ensure that USDA programs are delivered in a fair and equitable manner to all the farmers of Jefferson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the Oskaloosa USDA Service Center conference room.

2011 DCP Signup

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. FSA 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. Each year you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Countercyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this online service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda followed by a visit to any local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Prescribed Burn Workshop

Burning is a part of the natural ecosystem of the prairie. Environmental conditions, such as wind current, humidity, wind speed and temperature, can have an effect on the effectiveness of the burn.

Prescribed burning has significant economic benefits to grassland managers. They help control red cedars and other unwanted species in the pasture or on CRP grounds. It also helps promote new growth of native grasses and clears thatch.

The Leavenworth County Extension Office and the Soil Conservation Districts of Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties have teamed up to bring everyone a burn workshop. There will be experts from K-State, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Services that will talk about proper ways to burn. There will also be a representative from the Sheriff's office that will talk about burn permits in the county and how to obtain such a permit.

The event will be held at the Lansing 4-H building in Lansing, KS on **February 10th** starting at 9 a.m. There will be lunch after the speakers. The cost for registration is \$5 and participants will receive a handbook on prescribed burning. Please RSVP for a lunch count by **February 7th**. Contact the Leavenworth County Extension Office at 913-364-5700 or the Leavenworth Conservation District at 913-682-2133 or the Wyandotte Conservation District at 913-334-6329.

Report Changes Now!

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a revenue-based commodity program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill as an alternative to DCP. Sign up for ACRE occurs between October 1 and June 1 each crop year. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments;
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Producers who elect ACRE commit to this option through crop year 2012. Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. To elect ACRE for a farm the first year, producers must complete an election form CCC-509 ACRE as well as an enrollment form. The producer must again enroll each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15th is the last day to pay the applicable service fee to obtain Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, pecans, chestnuts, cotton, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts.

The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Applications for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

General Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. 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 \$1,094,000.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detailed information regarding loans and loan eligibility, contact the county office for an appointment with a farm loan representative.

Farm Operating Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, equipment and livestock purchases.

Farm Ownership loans can be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, or construct essential farm buildings and improvements.

Dates to Remember

January 17	Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 1	Authorized burning of CRP acreage begins
February 10	Prescribed Burn Workshop
February 21	Office Closed for Presidents' Day
March 15	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage
March 31	2010 Wheat, Oats and Barley Loan/LDP Deadline
April 15	CRP primary nesting season begins
April 15	Authorized burning of CRP acreage ends
May 30	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 31	2010 Corn, Sorghum, Soybean Loan/LDP Deadline
May 31	Deadline to certify small grain crops
June 1	Deadline to sign up for 2011 DCP/ACRE program