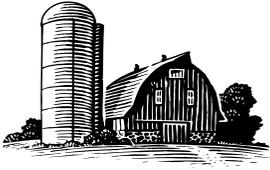




SEPTEMBER 2010



Labette County News



Labette County FSA
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Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5431 phone
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Visit us online at
www.fsa.usda.gov or
email at
kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov

IMPORTANT DATES

September 8—COC meeting
September 30—end of 2010 fiscal year
September 30—SURE sign up deadline
First 2 weeks in October—Office transmits CRP annual and 2010 DCP final payments
October 6—COC meeting
November 5—COC ballots mailed to producers in LAA3
November 3—COC meeting

2010 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

HRW Wheat--\$2.80
SRW Wheat--\$1.71
Corn--\$2.10
Grain Sorghum--\$3.48
Soybeans--\$4.99

More rates can be accessed online at www.usda.fsa.gov under Price Support.

Food for thought:

“Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science.”
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

For current information about FSA and agriculture in general, check out the following websites:
www.usda.fsa.gov
www.usda.fsa.gov/ks
www.ksda.gov
www.oznet.ksu.edu
www.nass.usda.gov

2008 SURE DISASTER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30

A deadline has been announced for the 2008 SURE (Supplemental Revenue) program. September 30 is the final day to file an application for payment with the county office.

Producers meet SURE eligibility in two ways. First, producers must have insured ALL their crops of economic significance through either RMA or FSA's NAP insurance program for the disaster year. *This includes all hay crops.* Second, a producer's farm must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on any crop of economic significance (defined as being valued at 5% or more of the total expected farm revenue dollars).

If you meet these eligibility requirements and believe you may have suffered a revenue loss in 2008, contact your administrative county office to sign up for 2008 SURE. Generally, signup will not require you to provide any information. FSA offices are receiving electronic reports of producers' insurance information from RMA. The reports will be used to calculate revenue guarantees, losses, and payment. Producers do not need to provide production history data for their farms. If you meet the SURE eligibility requirements, contact the office as soon as possible to request that we work through your farm data.

Labette County became eligible for SURE through a 2008 USDA Secretarial disaster designation. Designations were also received for both 2009 and 2010. SURE sign up for 2009 crop losses will probably begin later this year, with a procedural deadline of March 30, 2011.

If you would like to establish SURE disaster eligibility for yourself for the 2011 crop year, you may purchase NAP insurance from FSA to cover crops not insurable through RMA. December 1, 2010, is the insurance purchase deadline for all hay (grass, alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, and mixed forage), as well as oats, berry and fruit crops. Insurance for pecans, walnuts, coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, pumpkins, safflower and sesame must be purchased by March 15, 2011.

THINKING AHEAD TO 2011 ANNUAL DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

We can't sign you up yet—computer software is usually activated for this in late fall each year. HOWEVER, this is a great time for producers to notify us of farming changes that have been made. If you have sold or bought land, changed the way you do business (formed or changed a trust, partnership, corporation, etc.), assumed operatorship of a new farm for 2010, or any other type of farm business change, please notify us now. We also need to know of any address or direct deposit bank account changes. The best time to correct farm records is before a new program signup begins. This allows you to receive correct information and payments and can prevent problems down the road. The only way we know a change has been made is if YOU notify US.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFERS NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM (NPSPCP)

The Labette County Conservation District is currently accepting cost-share applications for the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program. The program began in 2008 to supplement the funding the District receives from the State Conservation Commission for the Water Resources Cost-Share Program, which has funded the installation of terraces and waterways for many years.

The NPSPCP targets the improvement and protection of water quality in the surface waters of Labette County. There are three primary methods in which the program attempts to address these issues: 1) Reducing sedimentation by planting crop fields to permanent vegetation, such as fescue or native grass. Note: A soils test is required with the application if one is sowing a field to fescue. 2) Reducing livestock waste in streams by either “fencing out” streams or by constructing a pond that will draw livestock away from a stream. Pipeline and tanks can be used to draw livestock away from streams too. 3) Reduce domestic waste in surface waters by installing an on-site waste septic system for a county-declared failed system. The program does NOT assist with brand new systems. **Cost-share is available through the District for assistance with these practices.**

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

County Committee:

Ken Foster, Chair
Darlene Ferguson, Vice Chair
David Dhooghe, Member

County Committee generally meets the 1st Wednesday of each month

Staff:

Kitra Cooper, CED
Annetta Henry, PT
Sally McKinzie, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT
Dannette Nash, PT
Trey Thompson, Field
Jim Dark, FLM
Michelle Cerne, FLO



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) UPDATES

Nationwide general CRP signup (GSOP) ended August 27. We should know by the end of September which, if any, Labette County offers were accepted.

Still and always available to producers is the Continuous CRP (CCRP). CCRP can be used as a tool to address specific environmental and wildlife conservation needs on their farms. The different CCRP practices available in Labette County are:

CP8A—Grass Waterways
CP9—Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
CP15B—Contour Grass Strips on Terraces (Permanent Establishment)
CP21—Filter Strips
CP33—Upland Birds Habitat Buffers
CP38E—SAFE—Upland Birds Habitat Establishment

Depending on the conservation practice selected, contracts approved for land accepted into CCRP may be eligible for a Signup Incentive Payment, a Program Incentive Payment, 50% cost share to assist with establishment of the practice, and an annual rental payment for the life of the contract (10-15 years). Labette County's average Soil Rental Rate (SRR) is \$48/acre. Actual rental rates will be established by contract according to the soil types present on the land being offered.

If you have any questions about the CRP program, contact the county office.



PAYMENTS FOR CATTLE DEATH LOSS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is a program that provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather during the calendar year. This includes hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, lightning, tornadoes, extreme heat and extreme cold. For example, the mortality rate for Adult Beef Cows is 1.1% and the 2010 payment rate is \$631.41. Other rates can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

Filing for LIP is not tricky, but does require producers to document and report each and every livestock death in the calendar year, no matter the cause. Producers must file a notice of loss with their administrative county FSA office within 30 days of the livestock death; this may be filed by phone, fax or email as well as in person. The producer also needs to report the cause of death, weather event and date, livestock type and weight range, and livestock inventory on hand on the date of the weather event.

Before payment can be made, applicants must also provide documentation that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. This can be done one of 3 ways.

- Verifiable Records—includes producer requested and paid-for FSA on-site inspection, within **one week** of the deaths; veterinarian records; rendering truck receipts; bank or other loan documents, private insurance documents; written contracts; production records, tax records
- Reliable Records—verifiable beginning and ending inventory records PLUS contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the adverse weather event, pictures(s) with a date, brand inspection records, dairy herd improvement records, etc.
- 3rd-Party Certification on Form FSA-926—can be filed by a non-interested person and must include a detailed written statement, affiliation with owner, and contact information. Livestock owner must provide inventory records and certify there is no other documentation of death available.

Nondiscrimination Statement

"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, audiotape, 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 an equal opportunity provider and employer."