



January 2011 Labette County Farm Service Agency

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Hours

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

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County Committee

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For current info 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

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WE'LL MISS HER! SALLY MCKINZIE TO RETIRE

Please join us in wishing Sally well, and celebrate her 32 years of service to USDA and FSA and Labette County farm producers. We are hosting an *Open House* for Sally here at the office on Friday, January 28, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Sally's last day of work will be February 1.

Sally has held various program responsibilities over the years, from Price Support and Payment Eligibility and CRP, to handling office Administrative duties. She has assisted many, many customers over the years with program signups and filling out those pesky government forms, and has even watched some of you grow up. Make plans to stop in the office that afternoon for some refreshments and conversation.

2009 SURE PROGRAM SIGNUP BEGINS THIS MONTH

The Supplemental Revenue (SURE) program for the 2009 crop revenue year was made available to producers on January 10, 2011. SURE may pay producers for 2009 revenue losses incurred on **totally** insured farming operations.

Producers actually 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).

After these requirements are met, a producer's total farm crop production and price data is entered into the FSA software. We will use data received electronically from Risk Management Agency and established by USDA. Most producers will not need to provide any additional data, though they will need to sign the final application form.

If you meet the first two eligibility requirements and believe you also suffered an overall farm revenue loss in 2009, contact your administrative county office to sign up for 2009 SURE. The deadline to sign up for 2009 SURE is July 29, 2011.

NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2011 DCP PROGRAM

Producers may sign their farms into the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and report planted wheat acreage through May 31. Advance payments of 22% may be requested, with final payments being disbursed in October, as usual. Please call the office to schedule your appointment to do this. Even calling a day or two ahead will increase efficiency and eliminate your wait time.

As in previous years, valid DCP contracts require a signature from ALL producers (operators and landowners) on a farm, agreeing to the crop share division. This requirement may be waived for cash leased farms only IF the farm operator provides our office a copy of the cash lease agreement or certifies to the cash lease on FSA form CCC-510.

Also required again this year are new Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) forms from all producers receiving payment. One form (FSA-926) stays on file in the FSA office, while the other form (CCC-927 or 928) must be mailed by the producer to the IRS. Both forms are available in our office and we will help you complete them.

GENERAL CRP SIGNUP SLATED FOR MARCH?

Although nothing has been announced officially, word is that another General CRP Signup will be held beginning sometime in March. We will publicize the pertinent information as soon as it's available.

This General CRP signup (GSOP) should be very similar to the signup that was conducted recently in August of 2010. During the signup period, land is "offered" into CRP by the producer to address a specific conservation need. These offers are then ranked on a national level based on several factors that make up the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Factors include type of CRP practice, Soil Rental Rate offered by the producer, and location within a Conservation Priority Area. "Offers" that rank high enough are accepted into CRP. Contracts usually run from 10-15 years and producers receive an annual payment for successfully establishing and maintaining the accepted CRP practice for the length of the contract.

Watch for more information later.

THINKING ABOUT BIN STORAGE? CHECK OUT OUR FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

As you're sitting in your warm house this winter, thinking about spring and planning your future farm operation and crop production, think about FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program. The FSFL Program can provide low-interest financing to producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade crop storage and handling facilities. In addition to the grains previously eligible, USDA has added Hay, Renewable Biomass, and Fruit, Vegetable and Nut crops as eligible crops.

Eligible borrowers must meet all FSA credit rating, security agreement, and insurance requirements. Borrowers must also provide proof of multi-peril or NAP crop insurance on ALL FSFL-eligible commodities produced that are of economic significance.

Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the dollar amount of the loan. Maximum principal amounts can range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Interest rates for each term are different--for example, the January 2011 interest rate for a 7-year loan is 2.5%. Participants are required to provide a cash down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent equipment. A non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required for each loan. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Check with FSA for more details before you go bin-shopping.

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT LAND OWNERSHIP

According to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA), foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign investors buying or selling land must report such transaction within 90 days of the date of the sale. Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

Farm Service Agency form FSA-153 is used to report land holdings and transactions. The completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land is located.

2011 FINAL YEAR FOR LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Producers have one more year to take advantage of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The 2008 Farm Bill only authorized LIP through 2011. LIP has been lightly utilized in Labette County, but we'd like producers to keep the program in mind when they lose livestock to adverse weather events such as blizzards, floods, wildfires, floods, lightning, and tornadoes.

LIP pays per-head for livestock deaths *in excess of normal mortality* caused by an adverse weather event during the calendar year. Mortality and payment rates can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

The single most important requirement of LIP is timely filing a notice of loss for each and every livestock death within 30 days of the death. This may be filed by phone, fax or email, as well as in person, and **MUST** include the exact cause of death, exact date and weather event, livestock type and weight range, and number of livestock inventory on hand on the date of the weather event.

Verifiable and/or Reliable Records will be required from the producer prior to payment that documents the cause, date and number of deaths. Examples are:

- Paid-for FSA on-site inspection, within **one week** of the deaths
- Veterinarian records
- Rendering truck or other carcass disposal receipts
- *Verifiable* beginning and ending inventory records PLUS contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the adverse weather event (includes photos with a self-date stamp)

In the absence of Verifiable Records, a Third-Party Certification may be accepted on Form FSA-926 (available at the office) and must be filed by a non-interested person and include a *detailed* written statement, affiliation with owner, and contact information. Livestock owner must also provide inventory records and certify there is no other documentation of death available

Dates to Remember	
January 17	Office closed
January 22	Conservation District Annual Banquet
February 2	COC meeting
February 21	Office Closed
March 1	Labette Women In Agriculture Conference
March 15	NAP purchase deadline for nut & fruit crops