



February 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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Ken Foster
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For current info about FSA and agriculture in general, check out the following websites:

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.ksda.gov
www.ksre.ksu.edu
www.nass.usda.gov

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CALLING ALL WOMEN! AG CONFERENCE MARCH 1

The 3rd annual Labette Women in Agriculture Conference has been set for Tuesday, March 1, 2011. We have several good speakers and programs scheduled, and the conference will again include lunch and door prizes. There is no cost to attend. The conference will begin at 9:00am and end by 3:00pm, and will be held again at the Altamont First Baptist Church Annex on 4th St (Highway 160).

We hope the earlier date will allow more women to attend the conference this year. Please RSVP by **February 23** by calling 784-5431, ext. 21, or 784-5377, or email ludwig@ksu.edu or kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov.

GENERAL CRP SIGNUP TO BEGIN IN MARCH

Another General CRP Signup has been announced. Signup will begin March 14 and run through April 15.

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 a CRP practice 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.

LABETTE FSA WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

Julie Ryan of Altamont was recently hired as a fulltime permanent program technician. Julie will report to work here on February 28, and her initial duties will be the CRP program, along with assisting producers as needed in other program areas.

Julie is moving into this position after 2 years with the Labette Conservation District. Prior to that, Julie worked as a temporary program technician in our office, and also has several years of experience in the banking industry.

EXTREME WEATHER = LIVESTOCK DEATHS

With the recent blizzard and record-setting cold temperatures, livestock producers have lost animals. Producers can possibly recoup some of their lost livestock revenue by taking advantage of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LIP pays per-head for livestock deaths *in excess of normal mortality* caused by an adverse weather event through October 1, 2011. Adverse weather events included are blizzards, wildfires, floods, lightning, and tornadoes, and extreme cold/heat for adult animals. 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 and date of death, exact date of the adverse weather event, livestock type and weight range, and number of livestock inventory on hand on the date of the weather event.

Producers are also required to provide documentation of the livestock death(s). This may be done in at least one of the 3 following ways:

Verifiable—FSA field visit within 1 week of the death (\$46.00 fee); a statement from the vet documenting date and cause of death; insurance records, rendering truck or other disposal receipts. In these cases, the producer will **NOT** need to provide any inventory documentation. Producer will self-certify inventory numbers.

Reliable—photos with timestamp is the most common. Producers may also provide contemporaneous records (such as a notebook record). In these cases, the producer **MUST** provide documentation of herd beginning and ending inventory, such as purchase/sales receipts, bank loan inventory records, tax documents.

3rd Party Certification—FSA-926 **MUST** be completed by a person with knowledge of the deaths, not related to or employed by the producer. Form must be completed entirely, front and back, and signed. In this case, the producer must also provide inventory records at time of death.

GET ONLINE ACCESS FOR YOUR FSA INFORMATION AND PROGRAMS

Just like online banking or bill-paying, your personal FSA financial information is available to you online 24 hours a day through a completely secure website. FSA's Online Services Website is a service that allows agricultural producers to conduct business and generate financial reports from the comfort of their home office. Producers also have the option to sign into certain FSA programs online.

Authorized producers may view summary and detailed information about specific payments received, collections paid, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and information reported on the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Form 1099. Producers may also update their Direct Deposit banking information through this access.

Also available is a Customer Statement that allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs, information on farm loans, and conservation plan and land unit information.

For more information, go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and click the "Online Services" tab at the top of the page. Here, you will be able to obtain Level 2 Access to an eAuth Account. This requires you to:

- submit an online customer profile
- activate your account by responding to the confirmation email within 7 days
- complete the "identity proofing" by presenting your photo ID at your local FSA office.

Contact our office if you're interested in this service.

SURE PROGRAM PAYS FOR 2009 REVENUE LOSS

The Supplemental Revenue (SURE) signup period for the 2009 crop revenue year runs through July 29, 2011. SURE may pay producers for 2009 revenue losses incurred on **totally** insured farming operations.

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 requirements AND believe you may have suffered a total farm revenue loss in 2009, contact the county office.

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 February 2011 interest rate for a 7-year loan is 2.75%. 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.



Dates to Remember	
February 21	Office closed
March 1	Labette Women in Agriculture Conference
March 2	COC meeting
March 14	General CRP Signup begins
March 15	NAP purchase deadline for nut & fruit crops
Ongoing	2009 SURE program signup
Ongoing	2011 DCP program signup