



## April 2011

### Labette County Farm Service Agency

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#### Hours

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

#### Office Staff

County Executive Director--  
Kitra R. Cooper  
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Program Technicians--  
Annetta Henry  
Dawn Thompson  
Julie Ryan  
Farm Loan Manager--  
Jim Dark  
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Michelle Cerne  
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Trey Thompson

#### County Committee

Ken Foster  
Darlene Ferguson  
Tori Dickinson

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

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
[www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov)  
[www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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### DCP SIGNUP DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING!

Farm producers must enroll their farms into the DCP (Direct/Counter-Cyclical Payment) Program by May 31. This is an annual enrollment and does not carry over from year to year, so farms must re-enroll to receive DCP payment.

Based on historical enrollment data, it looks like we have only 63% of our eligible farms enrolled—we have a ways to go by May 31! A farm can be enrolled even if crops have not been planted. If you need to enroll your farm into DCP, please contact the county office as soon as possible to make an appointment. Owner signatures on the contract must be returned to the office by August 1, 2011.

A requirement of the DCP contract is to report all planted commodities to FSA. This includes grass. Your acreage report needs to include crop type, use, and planting date. Deadlines to report planted commodities are June 1 for small grains, and August 1 for all other crops, including CRP grass.

### 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 must meet both SURE eligibility requirements. Producers must have insured ALL their crops of economic significance through either RMA or FSA's NAP insurance program for the disaster year, including all hay crops. Also, a producer's farming operation 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 to sign up.

### CONSERVATION COST SHARE DOLLARS AVAILABLE

The Labette County Conservation District will be conducting a sign up for state financed cost-share from May 16 through May 31. This program is designed to conserve soil and protect water resources by providing financial assistance to landowners who implement conservation measures.

Practices available through the Water Resources and Non-Point Source Cost-Share Program include: waterways, waterway restoration, terraces, terrace restoration, ponds, range seeding, pasture and hay land planting, and more.

If you wish to sign up, please stop by the USDA office at 115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Altamont and see Brenda Gelwick.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES REQUESTED

Just like the rest of the business world, USDA and FSA is moving more every day into the electronic age. Using electronic methods of communication and publicity can greatly reduce government costs and save time for both you and our office. It will improve our ability to solve problems and ensure your payments are made timely. It will also enable us to contact you quickly and easily to remind you of approaching deadlines, request missing information, and notify you of emergency situations.

Although we are definitely not discontinuing any form of print communication, we would like to begin adding the ability to contact you electronically. Be assured that your electronic contact information will not be shared with any non-governmental group—it is protected by the same Privacy Act laws that protect all your other personal information.

Please send an email to [kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov), with your name or names of producers associated with that email address. Our office will assemble a Labette County database for quick and easy contact access. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact the office.

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**EXTREME WEATHER = LIVESTOCK DEATHS**

Quite a few producers took advantage of our LIP (Livestock Indemnity Payment) Program this winter by filing losses for livestock deaths caused directly from extreme weather conditions. This program is still in effect through September 30, 2011, and is something to keep in mind as summer weather may cause more livestock deaths.

LIP gives producers the opportunity to recoup some of their lost livestock revenue. LIP pays per-head for livestock deaths *in excess of normal mortality* caused by an adverse weather event through September 30, 2011. Events that may affect livestock this summer include lightning, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, and extreme heat (for adult animals only). Mortality and payment rates can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks).

**All livestock deaths MUST be reported to the office within 30 days of the death.** This may be done 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 three following ways:

**Verifiable**—FSA field visit within 1 week of the death (\$46.00 fee); a signed vet statement 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, but will self-certify inventory numbers.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification**—Form 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.

Check out USDA's new and improved website @ [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)!

**ARE YOU CONSERVATION-MINDED?**

A General CRP signup period ended last Friday with limited interest from local producers. However, Continuous CRP (CCRP) is always available and can be a great tool to address your farm's specific environmental and wildlife conservation needs. Several different CCRP practices are available in Labette County. They are:

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

Depending on the practice selected, approved CCRP contracts 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 are determined by contract according to the soil types present on the land being offered. Contact this office for learn how to offer land into the CRP program.

*"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."  
 --Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Dates to Remember**

May 30	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	2011 DCP signup deadline
June 1	Small grain acreage report deadline
July 4	Office closed for Independence Day
July 29	2009 SURE signup deadline
Aug 1	Feed grain & CRP acreage report deadline
Aug 1	Deadline to return DCP contract signatures