



Linn County Farm Service Agency

January 5, 2011

431 Spruce Street PO Box G
Mound City, KS 66056

PH 913-795-2940
FAX 913-795-2049
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Brian D. Lueker,
County Executive Director

Stacy Kull,
Farm Loan Manager

Tammy Nichols,
Farm Loan Officer

Julie Hibdon,
Program Technician

Jacque Nation,
Program Technician

Diana Otto,
Program Technician

Sue Stainbrook,
Program Technician

County Committee

Pamela Wilson
Edward Self
Clayton Carothers

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, audiotope, 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.

Election Results Announced

The election for positions on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee in Linn County has now been completed. The election was accomplished with a ballot listing this year's candidates being mailed to all eligible voters shortly after November 1. December 6 was the deadline for returning completed ballots. Ballots were then counted by the sitting committee members on December 9.

The Linn County position included the southern townships of Blue Mound, Mound City, Stanton, Sheridan, and the southern half of Potosi. Pamela Wilson was elected to the 3-year regular committee position.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CANDIDATES for their willingness to participate in this election, and to serve their farmer/rancher friends and neighbors through the FSA Committee!

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through June 1 each year. If you elect the ACRE option, you are committed to this option through 2012, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. 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. Counter-cyclical 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. Please call the Linn County FSA Office to make an appointment to enroll your farms. The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service can 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 the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

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.

Acres Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. The Linn County deadline to report small grains such as wheat, barley, and oats is May 31, 2011. The final day to report spring seeded crops and CRP is August 1, 2011.

Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC – OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Note: FSA/CCC will begin this process in the coming months.

What is PCC - OTC?

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my checks be handled?

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, "Electronically Processed" or "Electronically Presented" and the voided check will be returned to the customer. If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. Deadline for enrollment in SURE is announced annually. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. SURE sign up for the 2009 crop year begins January 10, 2011 and ends July 29, 2011. To apply for the 2009 SURE program in Linn County, please call our office so we can prepare your application.

Participation Loans

The Farm Service Agency provides financing for producers/ranchers who lack the down payment required by commercial lenders for the purchase of real estate. A lender provides 50% or more of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less, and FSA finances the balance at 5% fixed for up to 40 years, if needed. The lender will have 1st lien priority giving them the equity needed to make the loan without a down payment. Maximum dollar amount that can be financed by FSA is \$300,000.

Dates to Remember	
1/10/2011	2009 SURE signup begins
3/31/2011	deadline to request small grain loan
5/31/2011	deadline to report small grains and last day to request loan on feed grains.
6/1/2011	final sign up date for DCP and ACRE
8/1/2011	deadline to report spring seeded crops and CRP