



Montgomery/Chautauqua County Farm Service Agency News

November 2010

Montgomery/Chautauqua County FSA
410 Peter Pan Rd, Suite A
Independence, KS 67301
Phone (620)331-4860
FAX (620)331-7951
lisa.hall@ks.usda.gov

Office Hours
8:00 AM—4:30 PM
Monday—Friday
Closed Legal Holidays

Farm Programs Staff
Lisa Hall, CED
Roxie Cummings, PT
Jill Dunn, PT
Karen Holloway, PT
Sara McCoy, PT
Barry Beurskens, Fieldman

Farm Loan Staff
James Dark, FLM
Michelle Cerne, FLO
Jackie Adams, FLPT
Helen McDaniel, FLPT

County FSA Committee
Robert Casey, Chairperson
Chuck Springer, Vice-Chair
Melvin Gordon, Member
Steve Clark, Member
Jerry Barnett, Member
Bonnie Oliver, Advisor

Committee meets 1st
Wednesday of each month at
USDA Service Center meeting
room.

Web Sites
www.fsa.usda.gov
www.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

November 11 – Office closed for Veteran's Day

November 25 – Office closed for Thanksgiving

December 24 – Office closed for Christmas

December 31 – Office closed for New Year's

October 1 thru June 1 -
Sign-up Period for 2011
DCP Program

December 1 – NAP
application deadline for
grass crops and alfalfa

December 6 – Final date to
return COC ballots

December 9 – Deadline to
apply for CAP



2011 DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Underway

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA 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. For 2011, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, no counter-cyclical payments will be earned, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

AFIDA

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Any person who acquires or transfers any interest in agriculture land is required to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the acquisition or transfer. Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) with the Farm Service Agency that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land. For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs contact the local FSA office or view online at www.fsa.usa.gov.

Crop Assistance Program

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that disaster payments are available for certain producers of 2009 upland cotton and soybeans that suffered losses because of excessive moisture or related conditions. The Crop Assistance Program (CAP) will make payments available to producers of upland cotton and soybeans in counties that received Secretarial disaster designations for excess moisture in 2009. Eligible counties in Kansas include: Bourbon, **Chautauqua**, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Cowley, Hamilton, Haskell, Meade, **Montgomery**, Rice, Sherman, Stevens, and Sumner. The crop must have been physically located in an eligible county to be eligible for payment. Producers of eligible crops on farms in disaster counties who had a 5 percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on the planted and considered planted acres of the crop. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program with producers initially receiving 75% of their CAP payment. The predetermined payment rates are \$15.62 per acre for soybeans and \$17.70 per acre for upland cotton. Signup for CAP ends December 9, 2010.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for county committee elections in Local Administrative Areas 3 and 4 will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

FSA Financial Services Website

USDA has established a new public web page to assist customers with their FSA financial reporting needs. Producers who have Internet access must register for Level 2 e-Authentication access to use the Financial Inquiries website. The website allows registered users to generate reports that show current and historical financial information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and CCC-1099G information. The link to FSA financial services is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.

Conservation Loan Program

A new Conservation Loan Program was recently announced that provides access to credit to implement conservation practices that will conserve natural resources. Conservation Loan (CL) funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS, such as installation of conservation structures; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaption of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Direct CL's can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CL's up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. Visit your local FSA office or the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov for more information on CL's.

November Farm Loan Program Interest Rates

Farm Ownership – Down Payment Loan: 1.500%
Purchase of Real Estate (20 Year Term) 5% down payment required
Limited to Beginning Farmers and/or Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

Farm Ownership Loan (Regular): 4.125%
Purchase or Improvement of Real Estate (Terms up to 40 years)

Operating Loan (Regular): 2.000%
Annual Input Expenses, Livestock Purchases, Machinery Purchases, etc. (1-7 year terms)

Emergency Loan: 3.750%
Based on actual losses from a declared disaster (1-40 year Terms)

Contact the FLP office at (620)331-4860 for current interest rates as they are updated monthly.

AGI Compliance

In December 2009, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) formed a partnership to ensure that only those participants who comply with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements receive farm program benefits. In order to verify producers are eligible for farm program benefits, producers were required to complete a consent form to allow the IRS to verify certifications as made to FSA.

Producers who have not filed the required CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 forms were recently notified. Producers who received a notice from FSA that the required forms have not been filed should ensure the forms are filed within 30 days from the date of the notice. Forms may be obtained from FSA or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc927> for individuals and <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc928> for legal entities. Producers must mail the consent forms directly to the IRS.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. The livestock must also have died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event no later than 60 calendar days from the adverse weather event and have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day they died. Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove 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. A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent. The final date to submit an Application for Payment is January 30 of the following year. Producers with livestock deaths should take steps to obtain adequate supporting documentation of the losses and contact the county office within 30 days to file a Notice of Loss. Additional information concerning LIP can be obtained at the county FSA office or online.

NAP Application Closing Date

The deadline for purchasing a 2011 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy for all grasses and alfalfa is December 1, 2010. Producers must visit the FSA office to complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the fee of \$250 per crop by this deadline to insure grass and alfalfa crops for the 2011 crop year. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55% of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster causes a 50% or greater production loss to an eligible crop.

In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (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 alleging 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.