



**Montgomery/
Chautauqua County
Farm Service Agency**

January 2011

410 Peter Pan Road, Suite A
Independence, KS 67301

PH 620-331-4860
FAX 620-331-7951

www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

OFFICE STAFF

FARM PROGRAMS

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

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

James Dark, FLM
Michelle Cerne, FLO
Jackie Adams, FLP PT
Helen McDaniel, FLP PT

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Chuck Springer, Chairperson
Steve Clark, Vice-Chairperson
Melvin Gordon, Member
Jerry Barnett, Member
Kurt Swearingen, Member
Bonnie Oliver, Minority Advisor

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**REPORT 2011
ACREAGE**

Producers are reminded to report planted wheat and other small grains by May 31. When reporting acreages, producers will need to provide planting dates. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on a farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP). Additionally, all acreages hayed or grazed must be reported to meet eligibility requirements under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). An FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must be filed by the following deadlines:

- Wheat, Barley, Oats and other small grains for harvest – May 31
- Small grains for haying or grazing – 15 days prior to haying or grazing
- Corn, Milo, Soybeans and other spring seeded crops – August 1
- CRP – August 1
- NAP – August 1 or 15 days prior to harvest

Producers should also report prevented planted acres within 15 calendar days of the crops final planting date and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss. Reports of failed acreage should be filed before disposition of the crop. Producers must be able to establish that the crop failed or was prevented from being planted because of natural disaster conditions.

RECONSTITUTIONS

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and operator are grouped under one farm number. When changes in owner or operator take place, a farm reconstitution may be necessary. The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the methods that may be used when a farm recon is requested:

- Estate Method – the division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- Landowner Method – may be used when an actual ownership change occurs and both the buyer and seller agree to the division
- DCP Cropland Method – the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tracts relates to the DCP cropland on the parent farm
- Default Method – the division of bases for a parent farm using bases attributed at the tract level

To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1.



**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.

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.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE
ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to Kurt Swearingen and Jerry Barnett on their recent election to the county committee. Kurt Swearingen will represent LAA-3 while Jerry Barnett represents LAA-4.

We would like to thank Robert Casey for his 9 years of service as a county committee member.

Committee members are an important part of the administration of federal farm programs at the county level, ensuring USDA programs are delivered in a timely, fair and equitable manner.

The committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room at the USDA Service Center in Independence.

FSA appreciates those who serve on the county committee as well as producers who take the time to vote for committee candidates.

**BANK ACCOUNT
CHANGES**

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the office updated on changes you make to your banking information. If you change accounts or institutions, contact the county office to update your information and insure continued uninterrupted service.



WOMEN IN AG PROGRAM

If you are a woman involved in agriculture as a partner, helper, or absentee landlord, plan to attend this free program on Thursday, February 10, at the Independence Civic Center. The guest speaker is Terry Arthur, Attorney with the Arthur-Green Law Firm. Although the target audience for the seminar is women, all producers are invited to attend. Topics to be discussed include estate and trust planning as well as other topics of interest to women involved in agriculture.

Registration will start at 6:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Producers who will be attending are asked to pre-register with the Montgomery County Conservation District at (620)331-4860. The meeting is co-sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau and the Montgomery County Conservation District. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend this event should contact Lisa Hall at (620)331-4860 or e-mail lisa.hall@ks.usda.gov by February 8.

2009 SURE SIGN-UP

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program has opened and continues through July 29, 2011. SURE provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters. Producers who suffered crop losses during the 2009 crop year are encouraged to visit a local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program and how to apply.

To be eligible for SURE a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Both Chautauqua and Montgomery counties are covered by a disaster designation for the 2009 crop year. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers interested in signing up must do so before July 29, 2011. For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usa.gov/sure>.



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities. The low interest rate changes monthly and is based on the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting upright and bunker silos, and new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass. Loan limits are up to \$500,000. Loan terms are \$100,000 or less – 7 years; \$100,000 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 years; \$250,000 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 years. Sign-up is continuous as long as CCC funds are available.

NEED HELP WITH SPRING INPUT COSTS &/OR EQUIPMENT OR LIVESTOCK PURCHASES?

The Farm Operating Loan interest rate for February is 2.25% fixed rate for the term of the loan. Annual operating loans are repaid in 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold. Loan funds can be used for normal operating expenses. Operating loans to purchase equipment, machinery, breeding livestock or to refinance debts are normally repaid in 7 years. FSA offers farm loan assistance to farmers or ranchers who have experience and want to own or operate their own farm or ranch, but who don't yet meet the qualifications to get financing from a traditional lender. Farm loan officers in Independence are available without appointment on Monday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m.; other days appointments are encouraged.

SELLING CRP LAND

Producers planning to sell land should be aware of possible program consequences. For example, if you're planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received under the contract to date. Reviewing program implications with FSA before completing a sale of land is always a prudent precaution.

Dates to Remember

February 10	Women in Ag Program
May 31	Report Small Grains
June 1	2011 DCP/ACRE Sign-up Ends
July 29	2009 SURE Sign-up Ends
August 1	Report Spring Seeded Crops
Ongoing	Continuous CRP Sign-up
Upcoming	General CRP Sign-up expected this spring/summer - to be announced