



NEWSLETTER



Nemaha County Farm Service Agency

April 2011

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

Office Staff

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Kay McCoy,
Farm Loan Manager
Ray Mueting,
Farm Loan Officer
Vicky Olenhouse,
FP - Program Technician
Peggy Woolsoncroft,
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Karen Van Winkle,
FP - Program Technician
Christine Christensen,
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County Committee

Wayne Hermesch,
Chairperson
Mark Carpenter, Vice-
Chairperson
Karen Niehues, Member

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DCP SIGNUP DEADLINE

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) ends on **June 1, 2011**. June 1 is also the final date to return all signatures for producers with a share greater than zero.

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. For 2011, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

*******Reminder post cards will not be sent out. Please call the office now and schedule your appointment.*******

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP BEGAN MARCH 14TH AND ENDS APRIL 15TH

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. Please call our office for an appointment to discuss your CRP signup options.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County Committee election was held this past fall in LAA 2. Karen Niehues, Goff, was elected to a three year term. The alternate is Kenneth Kramer. The Nemaha County Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

SIGN-UP FOR E-NEWS

Stay up-to-date with important notices and reminders. The Nemaha County FSA Office is now doing E-News which is typically a monthly e-mail sent out with important dates and information. If you have not already provided the office with your e-mail address, please e-mail carla.jackson@ks.usda.gov and we will add you to the e-mail list.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the U.S. are required to under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture through the Farm Service Agency. Transactions must be reported within 90 days of the date of the sale. Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with up to 25 percent of fair market value of the agricultural land.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **May 31** deadline on small grains and a **August 1** deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

*******It is up to you to certify timely. Reminder postcards will not be sent out this year due to budget concerns.*******

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION

Over the next year, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will move toward an electronic method for processing producer checks. Paper check conversions is the process of converting paper checks presented to FSA of CCC into electronic debits to the producer's bank account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury website for detailed information:

www.pccptc.gov/pccotc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.com

**TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM (TIP)
 HELPS RETIRING AND BEGINNING
 FARMERS**

Transition Incentives Program encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- * Have land enrolled in CRP that is in the last year of the contract.
- * Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- * Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property.

Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment, If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly by phone.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

If you are considering removing any trees or clearing out any drains, you need to check with NRCS before starting. This also applies to breaking out any land to bring into agricultural production. Highly erodible and/or wetland determinations need to be made to maintain eligibility for Farm Program Payments. Maintenance of existing conservation structures is also required.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

The new Conservation Loan (CL) program can provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. Loans are available currently at a 4.375% rate for either seven or 20 years depending on security pledged.

CL funds can be used to apply conservation practices approved by NRCS, such as the installment of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide farmers access to credit for these practices.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be too large and financially strong. In fact, for those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation.

Direct CLs can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000.00. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000.00 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan Program, contact the Seneca FSA Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

CRP ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Before an annual rental payment can be issued, participants must certify to contract compliance using the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, or CCC-817U, Certification of compliance for CRP.

Dates to Remember	
Jan 10	2009 SURE Signup Began
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday-USDA Office closed
May 31	Deadline to report small grains and Last day to request loan on feed grains
June 1	FINAL day to sign up for DCP and ACRE
August 1	Deadline to report spring seeded crops, CRP, and Grass