

October  
2010

# NEOSHO COUNTY FSA TODAY



## Neosho County FSA

124 W. State  
Erie, KS 66733  
620-244-3491  
donna.sifers@ks.usda.gov

### Office Hours

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Monday – Friday  
Closed Legal Holidays

### Office Staff

Donna Sifers, CED  
Marcia Fickel, PT  
Judy Butler, PT  
Barb Geiger, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

620-724-6227  
Robert White, FLM  
Jason Love, FLO  
Debora Bolin, FLPT  
Barbara Brown, FLPT

### County Committee

Teresa Bogner, Chair  
Debra Cox, Vice Chair  
Rex Houghton, Member

COC meets second  
Tuesday each month  
at 9:00 AM

### FSA Web Sites

Kansas  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)  
National  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
USDA  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## 2011 DCP/ACRE PROGRAM SIGNUP

Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began on October 1, 2010. The deadline to enroll farms in these programs is June 1, 2011. All required signatures for enrollment must be submitted by this date. There is no late enrollment period. Advance direct payments are available at a level of 22% of the total direct payments for the farm.

During signup, producers may elect the ACRE option for 2011-2012 on specific farms. As a reminder, farms that elected and enrolled into the ACRE option in prior years must still enroll an ACRE contract for 2011 and following years. An appointment is seldom necessary; but will allow the staff to ready the information and files prior to your arrival.

A DCP fact sheet is available on the National FSA Website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## FARM RECORD CHANGES

Reporting record changes will help ensure benefits are issued timely and accurately. If you have a new bank or new account, a change in crop shares, a new owner or operator, have purchased or sold property, or moved - failure to report these changes could cause a non-payment or an erroneous payment of benefits. Payments are now issued from the Kansas City Management Office, and corrections to records or payments may take additional time causing a delay in issuing benefits. Each payment cycle several payments are held until account verification can be made.



## FSA ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Farm Service Agency has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation 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.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. FSA is presently offering fixed interest rates for these loans of 4.375%. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. Applicants in a strong financial position may qualify for a streamlined application process.

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 large and financially strong.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227, Ext 229. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



## NEW EMPLOYEES AT FSA

Judy Butler began working with FSA in April as a temporary program technician, moving into a permanent spot this August. Judy is working with Conservation Programs, Price Support, and Emergency Programs. Judy and her husband Joe, rural Walnut, have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Barb Geiger, a Bourbon County native, joined the staff in August. Barb has been working with our farmers and ranchers on Farm Programs and Compliance. Barb and her husband, Steve, live near Uniontown and have a small cow/calf operation. They have a grown son and daughter, and three grandchildren. Barb enjoys her variety of pets and activities on the farm, and likes to read in her spare time.

## FSA AND THE IRS

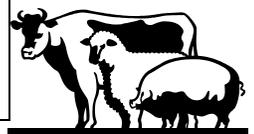
USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for programs administered by FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This agreement ensures confidentiality whereby the IRS reviews data from tax returns, performs a series of calculations, and compares these values to the AGI limitations. FSA and NRCS will receive a record that indicates if the program participant appears to meet the income limits. No actual tax data will be provided. If you received program payments for 2009 or 2010, a form was mailed to you in the early spring. Comparison data has been arriving in the county office, and you may have received notification that the IRS did not receive your completed form. This memorandum is ongoing for 2011 programs, and the FSA staff will work with you during the sign up process to ensure all required documentation is completed.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### LAND USE REPORTS

Annual reports of land use (crop reports) are a requirement to participate in most Farm Service Agency Programs. Reports of small grains (wheat, barley, oats, triticale) will be taken until May 31, 2011. Coarse grains, oilseeds, grass, and CRP reports can be accepted until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.



### COMMODITY LOANS HELP MANAGE CASH FLOW

As harvest continues, producers may need additional capital but are reluctant to sell grain at harvest prices. One of the tools that FSA provides is the Marketing Assistance Loan Program. Farmers can borrow money from FSA using their stored grain as collateral. The grain can either be stored on the farm as a certified or measured loan, or in a government approved warehouse facility. The term of the loan is nine months and is offered at low interest. For example, the interest rate for loans disbursed in October is 1.25%. Loan rates for the 2010 crops are:

- Corn \$2.08/bu
- Grain Sorghum \$3.40/cwt
- Soybeans \$5.01/bu
- Wheat \$2.74/bu



### FOREIGN INVESTORS 90 DAY REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within **90 days** to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Activity
Nov. 5, 2010	County Committee Election Ballots mailed
Nov. 11, 2010	Veterans Day – FSA office closed
Ongoing	2011 DCP/ACRE signup ends June 1, 2011
Ongoing	2011 Acreage Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Grains – May 31, 2011</li> <li>• Spring Seeded crops – August 1, 2010</li> </ul>
Nov. 25, 2010	Thanksgiving – FSA office closed
December 1, 2010	Deadline for NAP grass policy purchase
December 6, 2010	Final day to return committee election ballots
December 24, 2010	Christmas Holiday – FSA office closed
December 31, 2010	New Year's Holiday – FSA office closed

### CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Many Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts in Kansas will expire between 2011 and 2013. Many contract holders may choose to return their acres back to crop production or grazing land.

To maintain the conservation benefits achieved in the CRP, FSA encourages agricultural producers to consider keeping some or all of their environmentally sensitive acreage under contract. While re-enrollment options under general signup are limited, landowners may enroll their environmentally sensitive acres in continuous CRP signup at any time.

Continuous CRP practices include riparian forest buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, and wildlife habitat buffers, which provide important environmental benefits, promoting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat.