



NEWSLETTER



Phillips County Farm Service Agency

March 2011

1717 Highway 183
Phillipsburg, KS 67661

PH (785) 543-2732
FAX (785) 543-6324
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

Office Staff

Ronald Wyckoff,
County Executive Director
Paula Weinman,
Program Technician
Brenda Matteson,
Program Technician
Tammie Wheelbarger,
Program Technician
Michele Malmberg,
Program Technician

County Committee

Warren Kelly,
Chairperson
Kenneth D Johnson,
Vice Chairperson
Kenneth Stockman,
Member
Kay Rose,
Advisor

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, audiotape, 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.

General CRP Signup #41

General CRP Signup #41 begins March 14, 2011 and runs through April 15, 2011. An informational newsletter was recently sent to all Kansas producers on FSA record from the Kansas State FSA Office. Please review that newsletter for more detailed information. A portion in the southern part of Phillips County is again in a priority area, which will increase the chances of those offers being accepted. This signup will be for new acreage, expired acreage or acreage expiring from CRP this fall. Producers interested in offering acreage will need to contact the FSA office and complete necessary forms.

Report Your Wheat Acres

May 31, 2011 is the final date to timely report planted acres of wheat, barley, triticale and oats. Acreage reporting is required by the DCP and ACRE programs. It is also a requirement of commodity loans and LDPs. CRP eligibility also requires annual acreage reports, along with the NAP program. We will be taking native grass pasture and forage acres at this time also. It is a requirement for the SURE program that all acreages for harvest or grazing must be reported to be eligible.

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2011 DCP and ACRE programs is currently underway. Producers who have enrolled may receive 22% of the annual payment in advance of the October final payments. The producer may elect to receive these advance payments in any month from the time all signatures are obtained and the end of the fiscal year. The farm program contract (CCC-509) requires all owners and operators to sign the form. The final date to return signatures is June 1, 2011.

2009 SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 SURE program is currently underway and will continue through July 29, 2011. Under this program producers are reimbursed for losses incurred during the 2009 crop year. Phillips County is contiguous to a secretarial designated county, so producers must only have a 10% loss on a crop of economic significance in order to be eligible for payments. A requirement of the SURE program is that all crops of economic significance are covered by insurance or NAP.

Kenneth Stockman

Congratulations to Kenneth Stockman who was elected to the Phillips County Committee during the election held last December. Kenneth will represent the western third of the county for the next three years. The Phillips County Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

NAP Sales Closing Date Approaches

March 15, 2011 is the final date to purchase a NAP policy on forage sorghum and dual purpose forage sorghum. With the SURE program being authorized by the current farm bill, producers will want to take another look at insuring their feed crops. If your feed crop is worth 5% or more of your expected revenue of your farm, the crop must be insured under a NAP policy in order for you to be eligible for the SURE program. While there is snow currently on the ground, I do not believe it will replace the topsoil and subsoil moisture lost over the last several months of below normal precipitation. A change this year is that feed acres intended to be chopped for silage is no longer covered under NAP. Insurance on these silage acres must be purchased up town through your RMA insurance provider. Report all forage crop production losses within 15 days of the occurrence. Producers must keep records giving the date of harvest and number of bales and a representative number of scale tickets for each type of forage. Maintain all records for the current year and the immediate three past years for spot check purposes. NAP coverage is required for SAFE, LFP, and ELAP benefits.

Farm Stored Facility Loans

Under the Farm Stored Facility Loan program we issue low interest loans to participants to erect new farm storage. The program requires at least a 15% down payment, and loans over \$50,000 must be secured by real estate. The current interest rate is 2.875% on a 7 year fixed note. Larger loans may be stretched out for 10 or 12 year repayments, but the interest rate does increase to 3.500% and 3.875% respectively. Producers wishing to apply for a Facility loan will need to provide current financial information in the form of cash flows and balance sheets, an estimate for the cost of the bins to be erected and a \$100 application fee. We can also loan on hay storage, silage pits, and cold storage for vegetables under this program.

SPECIAL 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 at 785-543-2732, and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, (AFIDA), requires foreign persons, including corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, associations or like entities who acquire, transfer or hold interests in Ag land, to report these holdings and changes to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports must be submitted within 90 days of the date the land is bought, sold or transferred. Forms for reporting are available at any FSA office. Failure to timely file an accurate report may result in a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

REPORT FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land (including pasture), make sure you report the changes to the FSA within 30 days of the record change. Do not wait until DCP signup. Failure to report record changes within 30 days may cause the loss of all FSA benefits. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or signed contract for sale and the sales agreement. Ensure the sales agreement addresses all CRP and other FSA payment disposition. Name changes such as forming corporations, LLC's, partnerships, etc also need to be reported.

SODBUSTING PURCHASED LAND, NEWLY RENTED ACREAGE AND EXPIRED CRP

Prior to sodbusting **any** acreage including expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and before planting a crop on newly purchased or rented acreage, check the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). Planting a crop on sodbusted acreage or on newly acquired land that does not have a fully implemented CPO will cause the loss of all USDA benefits on all acreage owned and operated. Form AD-1026 must be approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prior to breaking any acreage or planting a crop on acreage that does not have a completed CPO.

Adjusted Gross Income

The IRS and FSA joined forces last year to ensure program payments are not being issued to producers who exceed the Adjusted Gross Income provisions of the farm bill. All producers that earn USDA benefits must complete a CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement and return this form to the County Office. Producers must also complete either a CCC-927, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information – Individual, or CCC-928, consent to Disclosure of Tax Information – Legal Entity, and return these forms to the Internal Revenue Service at the address on the form. Individuals who earn payments indirectly through a participating entity must also file individual reports with the IRS. Failure to do so will require repayment of past benefits received.

CONTINUOUS CRP PRACTICES

The following CRP practices may be offered at any time under the continuous signup. Under the continuous CRP producers earn annual rental payments based upon the soil types of the soils being offered, earn cost share equal to 90% of last year's average cost when all incentives are applied, and also earn a signup incentive of a one-time payment equal to \$100 per acre for each acre enrolled.

SAFE Acres, CP38E

Producers with small environmentally sensitive or erodible, or less productive spots in larger fields may want to check on the CRP SAFE practice. The SAFE practice stands for state acres for wildlife enhancement. Five acres or 20% of a field, whichever is larger, may be enrolled in the SAFE. These acres are planted to grass and their main focus is to provide nesting habitat for upland birds. Irrigated pivot corners may be enrolled in their entirety.

Quail Buffers, CP33

These acres are planted to grass and their main focus is also to provide nesting habitat for upland birds. This practice is limited to buffer strips on the outside edge of farmed fields.

Other practices available include CRP waterways, windbreaks, filter strips, riparian buffers, and others.

Dates to Remember	
3/14/2011	General CRP Signup #41 starts
3/15/2011	Last day to buy NAP on Forage Sorghum Feed
4/15/2011	Final Day of General CRP Signup #41
5/31/2011	Final Wheat, Barley, and Oats reporting date
6/1/2011	Final date to sign into DCP or ACRE
7/29/2011	Final date of 2009 SURE signup
8/1/2011	Final feed grain reporting date