



Rice County Farm Service Agency

MARCH 2011

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

Office Staff

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Rod Ackerman,
County Executive Director

County Committee

Eric Kratzer
Jacob Behnke
Galen Deutsch
Margaret Scheuffler, Advisor
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m

Farm Loan Programs:

By appointment for Rice County visits: (620) 669-8161

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2009 CROP DISASTER LOSSES

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) provides benefits for 'Farm' revenue losses due to natural disasters in years 2008 through 2011. For SURE purposes, a 'Farm' is defined as the sum of all crop acreage from all land in which a producer had an interest in, nationwide. Unlike previous disaster programs, payments are not calculated on individual crop losses, but on overall revenue losses for the producer's 'Farm'. Rice County is an Agriculture Secretary-declared primary disaster county for 2009; a 'Farm' must have had at least a **10% production loss** on one crop of **economic significance** in order to qualify. You also must have had crop insurance on all insurable crops of economic significance. For non-insurable crops of economic significance, you must have had coverage under the FSA Noninsured crop Assistance Program (NAP). An Economically Significant crop is defined as ANY crop whose value is more than 5% of the value of all crops combined. Or for NAP crops, the expected value of the crop is more than \$9,090. The insurance requirement does not apply to socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers.

We are now taking SURE applications for crop year 2009. If you think you had a 10% crop loss in 2009 and had the required insurance coverage, or for more information, contact our office to get the application started. The deadline to file an application for assistance under SURE for 2009 losses is **July 29, 2011**. **However, we ask that you contact our office by June 1, 2011.**

CRP SIGNUP COMING

The county office has been preparing for the next general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup to be held from March 14 thru April 15, 2011. Producers should be thinking about offering possible areas that may be better suited to being out of crop production, as well as current CRP acres set to expire this year. CRP provides assistance to take the most highly erodible land out of production and convert it to wildlife habitat. Cost share assistance is available for installing the practice and annual rental payments are issued for a period of 10 to 15 years. To be eligible, the acreage must have been cropped, or in CRP, 4 years between 2002 thru 2007. Fields offered that are not expiring CRP must also have an average soil erodibility index of 8 or greater, or exist in a Critical Priority Area (CPA).

CRP Cont...

All new contracts will be required to complete a management practice on all acres, once in the lifetime of the contract. The management practices are light disking, interseeding, burning, managed haying, or managed grazing.

If you would like to re-offer acres of CRP expiring this year or new acres, please contact our office as soon as possible and let us know what your intentions are. Contact us as soon as possible, as time will be very short once signup begins.

COC ELECTION RESULTS

Galen Deutsch of Chase was recently elected to the Rice County Committee as the representative of LAA#2. Galen began his 3 year term on January 1, 2011. We look forward to working with Galen in the coming years. We also want to take this opportunity to thank Mark Engelland for his years of service on the board. It has been a pleasure working with Mark.

ACREAGE REPORTS FOR 2011

We are scheduling appointments for small grain acreage reports for wheat, oats, barley, triticale, and rye.

To collect program benefits, including loan deficiency payments, crop loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program benefits, SURE program and crop history, it is a requirement to report crop acres and pastures in some cases.

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program requires all cropland on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops, and fallow.

The final date to certify wheat, oats, barley, triticale, and rye is **June 1**. Grass, corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, feed crops, and fallow acres have to be certified by **August 1**. Crops in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) **must** be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing.

If you have not reported your wheat acres, please call for an appointment as soon as possible. If you are planting oats, remember to also report those acres by June 1. With our tight budget and increased workload, **we most likely will not send out reminders.** Therefore, it will be the operator's responsibility to remember to timely file crop acreage certifications.

Please call as soon as possible to schedule an appointment; we have a short window to get all farms certified.

LIVESTOCK DEATHS

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at your local FSA county office.

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. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. National payment rates are found on the LIP Fact Sheet at www.fsa.usda.gov. 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 Jan. 30 of the following year.

2011 DCP Signup

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. USDA began issuing advance direct payments Dec. 1, 2010. 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 ACRE Option

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. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

The ACRE Option cont...

For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

REMEMBER HAY NET

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current wintry conditions. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Dates to Remember

March 14	CRP Signup Begins
March 31	Final Date to apply for 2010 crop loan or LDP on small grains and honey.
April 15	CRP Signup Ends
May 30	Office Closed – Memorial Day
May 31	Final Date to apply for 2010 crop loan or LDP on feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.
May 31	Deadline to report Small Grain Acres
June 1	Deadline to Sign up for DCP and/or ACRE
July 15	Deadline to submit ACRE production
July 29	Deadline to request 2009 Crop SURE pmt
August 1	Deadline to report Feed Grain Acres