



Rooks County FSA Office
 617 S Cedar
 Stockton, KS 67669-0503
 Phone: (785) 425-6302
 Fax: (785) 425-6308

HOURS: Monday – Friday
 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

August 2010

County Committee Members

Steve Cook, Chairman
 Lois Ann Gasper, Vice Chairperson
 Bill McCune, Member

The Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of each month

Office Staff: James Adams, CED
 Reesa Brown, PT
 Kacey Johnston, PT
 Kyleigh Stice, PT



NAP

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fee by the application closing date. You must have NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops to be eligible for supplemental disaster assistance programs.

The final date to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for alfalfa, all grasses, clover, mixed forage, and oats spring is December 1, 2010.

The final date to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts is March 15, 2011.

Service fees are: \$250.00 per crop
 \$750.00 per County
 \$1875.00 per producer for all counties

SUPPLEMENTAL DIASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.
- **The deadline to submit 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is September 30, 2010.**

FSA County Committee Election

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 is the area up for election this year. This area consists of the following Townships: Farmington, Lanark, Ash Rock, Stockton, Iowa, Lowell, and those producers that live north of P Road in the townships of Hobart, Greenfield, and Medicine. Nomination period starts June 15, 2009 and ends on August 2, 2010. Ballots will be mailed to those eligible voters in LAA-1 on November 5, 2010. Ballots must be returned to the Rooks County FSA Office by December 6, 2010. Ballots will be counted on December 8, 2010 and the newly elected member takes office on January 1, 2011.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign up began on May 17, 2010. 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 the 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.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP provided all of the following apply:

- The land has not been sold or leased before signing a CRP-TIP Contract
- Producers are otherwise eligible under TIP provisions
- The conservation plan is modified to require sustainable grazing or crop production methods



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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211's on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan Documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

REPORT FSA FARM RECORD CHANGES

Report record changes such as the sale of any acreage, operator change (for either fall or spring crops), estate or other entity formation or dissolution now. All changes must be reported to the county office within 30 days of the change.



Dates to Remember

September 6, 2010 – Office closed for Labor Day

September 30, 2010 – Deadline for 2008 SURE applications.

October 11, 2010 – Office closed for Columbus Day

October 20, 2010 – Final planting date for wheat

November 11, 2010 – Office closed for Veterans Day.

November 25, 2010 – Office closed for Thanksgiving.

December 6, 2010 – Deadline for LAA-1 Ballots back to FSA office.

December 24, 2010 – Office closed for Christmas

FSA Farm Loans



FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"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."