



## Scott County Farm Service Agency

**February 2011**

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**Office Staff:**  
Lora Wycoff  
County Executive Director

Bob Dean,  
Farm Loan Manager  
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Program Technician  
Dana Steffens,  
Program Technician  
Rodney Mohler,  
Field Assistant

**Scott County FSA Committee:**  
Allen E. Hess, Chairman  
Judy Winderlin, Vice-Chair  
John Beaton, Member

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## County Committee Elections

County Committee Elections were tabulated on Dec 8, 2010 to fill the vacancy in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 left by Gary Haupt who served on this committee as Chairman for five years. Mr. Haupt served 9 years on the Scott County FSA Committee.

**John Beaton** was elected to serve on the committee for a 3-year term. Alan Dearden was elected to serve as first alternate for LAA #3. Other members currently serving are committee Chairman Allen Hess and Vice-Chairman Judy Winderlin.

## DCP/ACRE- Signup Ends June 1

FSA is taking appointments for 2011 program signup in either the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), **or** the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The final signup date is **June 1, 2011**.

**DCP** is the annual farm program that makes direct and counter-cyclical payments to producers. **ACRE** is the other option in lieu of traditional DCP counter-cyclical payments.

Producers who elect **ACRE** for a farm agree to: forgo counter-cyclical payments; take a 20-percent reduction in direct payments; and take a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. Once you make the election to enroll your farm into the ACRE program your decision is non-revocable through the 2012 program year (until the end of the 2008 farm bill).

## Acres Reporting

The final date to report 2011 crop acres small grains (wheat, barley, oats) is May 31, 2011. The final date to report corn, grain sorghum, forage sorghum, fallow, oilseeds, grass and CRP is August 1, 2011. Remember to annually file acres reports on **all farmland**, not just cropland. Phone the county office for an appointment to certify 2011 acres.

## Sorghum Referendum in February

Sorghum Checkoff Program referendum will be conducted at FSA offices from Feb. 1 – Feb 28, 2011. Ballots are available at county offices, or by mail, or FAX, or online at: [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage) You are eligible to vote if you engaged in production of sorghum between July 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2010. Before you vote, you must provide evidence with a sales receipt or other form that shows you engaged in production of sorghum.

## Changes and Reconstitutions

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added cropland to your operation through new leases-- report these changes to your FSA. Provide this office with a copy of the recorded deed for purchased property. Remember that failure to maintain accurate farm records with FSA for land ownership or operator records could lead to possible program ineligibility.

Also, please consider whether you need to update signature authorization (FSA power of attorney forms) when changes in the farming operation occur. Revoking prior signature authority must be done in writing.

## Banking Changes

Since farm program payments are made electronically, please remember to report to us if you have changed banks or bank accounts. Keep this information current at FSA and report financial changes promptly. This includes those situations where one financial institution purchases or merges with another bank.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The LIP program provides benefits for livestock deaths above normal mortality rates if deaths were caused by adverse weather events such as blizzards, extreme cold or extreme heat, flooding, etc. The livestock death losses must have occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. For a list of eligible livestock and more information on this program contact the FSA or visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and enter "LIP" in the search engine.

## TRANSITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

The TIP program encourages retired or retiring owners, or operators, to transition Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning farmers, and/or socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers or ranchers with less than 10 years of experience.

An approved TIP contract will provide annual rental payments to retiring farmers for up to two additional years after expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires the retiring farmer or rancher to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to a long-term lease of 5 years or more on the land in CRP. This transition contract (lease or sale) must be initiated by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires. Retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP that expires Sept. 30, 2011, should take action to enroll in TIP by that October 1 date.

**Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation**  
*Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

For commodity and disaster programs under the current farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity **shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000**. Also, under the current regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from *farm income* in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million can remain eligible for conservation programs if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

**Signature Policy**

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA farm programs can save you time and prevent a delay in your farm program benefits. The following are some FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, do not sign as Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and signature from one eligible parent  
*(Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)*
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.



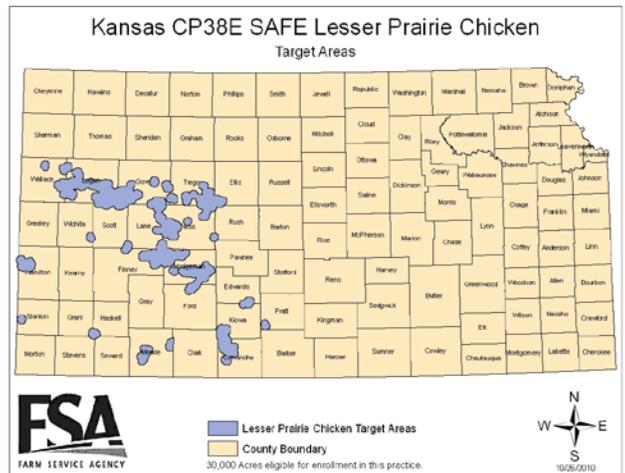
**Farm Loans Team Has Conservation Loans**

The Conservation Loan Program (CL) is available now to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the US to conserve our natural resources. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the NRCS, such as the installation of conservation structures; water conservation measures; waste management systems; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices or techniques. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing. If you have questions about a Conservation Loan please contact the Farm Loan program team at the Finney County FSA Office telephone number (620) 275-0211.

**Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Conservation SAFE Program**

FSA's Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) has added a new practice to the lineup. This practice is intended to conserve and develop mixed grass habitat to maintain and enhance Lesser Prairie-Chicken populations.

Sign-up began December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. This SAFE sign-up runs continuously until the acreage goal of 30,000 acres is met. Contact FSA if you believe that you have ground that is within the targeted area and you are interested in learning more about this program.



**NAP Sales Closing Date – March 15**

Applications for NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) for 2011 crops is March 15<sup>th</sup>. This March 15 deadline applies to **uninsurable sorghums**, vegetable and melon crops plus, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts.

NAP crops are limited to those crops not insurable in the county. Some examples of NAP crops with a March 15 application closing date in Scott County are turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed).

You must complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable application closing date for the specific crop. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county with an \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. In the unfortunate event of a loss on a particular NAP crop, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent.

It is important to remember that the future **SURE** program for 2011 crops still has a Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) that will require all crops harvested on a farming operation to have federal crop insurance or NAP coverage, whichever coverage applies.

Dates to Remember	
Ongoing	SURE (disaster) sign up for 2009-crop losses
February	Sorghum producers – Referendum VOTE!
March 15	Purchase deadline for NAP coverage on feed crops other than silage
March 31	Deadline to request Loan/ LDP on 2010 crop small grains
May 31	Final date to request Loan or LDP on 2010 crop feed grains and oilseeds
May 31	Acreage reports due on 2011 Small Grains
June 1	Final date to enroll in DCP or ACRE programs