



## Shawnee County Farm Service Agency

**April 2011**

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### Hours

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

### Office Staff

Lance H Thompson,  
County Executive Director

Stacy Kull,  
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Tammy Nichols,  
Farm Loan Officer

Julie Hibdon,  
Program Technician

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Nicole Welborn,  
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### County Committee

Arthur N Warner  
Gregory J Meier  
Lawrence J Atwood  
Jacqueline S Keller

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## COC Election Results Announced

The election for positions on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee in Shawnee County has now been completed. The election was accomplished with a ballot listing this year's candidates being mailed to all eligible voters shortly after November 1. December 6 was the deadline for returning completed ballots. Ballots were then counted by the sitting committee members on December 9.

The Shawnee County position included the townships of Menoken, Soldier and Tecumseh. Arthur N Warner was elected to the three-year regular committee position.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CANDIDATES for their willingness to participate in this election, and to serve their farmer/rancher friends and neighbors through the FSA Committee!

### \*LAST CALL\* - Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) Deadline is quickly approaching!

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are available and the remaining 78% of the payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the sign-up deadline of June 1, 2011.

Please contact the office for an appointment to complete your 2011 DCP sign up!

### SAFE & CONTINUOUS CRP PRACTICES AVAILABLE

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for enrollment through the Conservation Reserve Program State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practices, and Continuous CRP may be offered anytime during the year. These environmentally targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits for selected areas.

## THE ACRE OPTION

The Average Crop Revenue Election (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.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, 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 statutory for all participants.

### ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are to be certified by the May 31 for small grains (Wheat and Oats) and August 1 on all other crops (Corn, Soybean, Grain Sorghum & Grass).

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

### CRP - Annual Certification

Before an annual rental payment can be issued, participants must certify to contract compliance using the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, or CCC-817U, Certification of Compliance for CRP.

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**ACTIVELY ENGAGED**

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME**

USDA has 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 farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainsevtlet>.

**FINAL LOAN AVAILABILITY DATES FOR 2010 CROPS**

- May 31-Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Cotton

**Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. The low interest rate changes monthly and is based on the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting upright and bunker silos, new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass, and new cold storage facilities suitable for storing the fruits and vegetables produced by the borrower. Loan limits are up to \$500,000. Loan terms: \$100,000 or less – 7 years; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 years; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 years. Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available.

**Farm Loan Programs**

The Farm Service Agency 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 and farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000 per type. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

**Dates to Remember**

5/30/2011	Office Closed – Memorial Day Holiday
5/31/2011	Deadline to report small grains (wheat, oats) and last day to request loan on feed grains
6/1/2011	Deadline to request 2011 Reconstitution
6/1/2011	Final signup deadline for 2011 DCP & ACRE
7/4/2011	Office Closed – Fourth of July Holiday
8/1/2011	Final crop reporting deadline for corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, grass and CRP