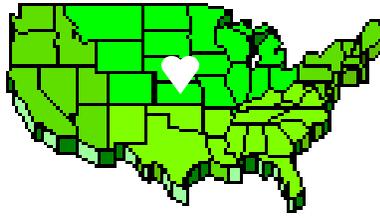




# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 Roger Barta Way  
Smith Center, KS 66967

*COUNTY COMMITTEE:*  
Darin Hawkins Chairperson  
Robert Koops Vice Chairperson  
Dianna Rice Member

Cary J. Tucker  
County Executive Director

**FROM THE HEART OF THE USA**

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

September 2010

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE) DEADLINE**

September 30 is the deadline to file for calendar year 2008 crop losses. Producers with significant production losses for crop year 2008 may be eligible for SURE payments. SURE payments are based on production losses on a producer's "Farm". "Farm" for SURE is defined as all crops in which a producer has an interest nationwide. To receive 2008 SURE payments the producer must have all eligible crops insured through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or Federal Crop Insurance. Two exceptions to this rule are crops with a value less than \$9091 and crops with total expected value of less than 5 percent of the total value of all crops raised on the farm. Call now for an appointment to determine your farm's SURE eligibility.

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## **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.

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## **County Committee Election**

December 6 is the deadline to return COC election ballots for producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) Three. The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every producer takes part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S Department of Agriculture. Congratulations to David Weeks and Craig Doane, the nominees for this year's election.

The 2010 election for Smith County Committee will be held for LAA Three, the eastern portion of the county. This includes Pawnee, Cora, Logan, White Rock, Oak, Crystal Plains, Webster, Garfield and Lincoln Townships. Robert Koops is the incumbent in LAA Three. Bob has served 10 years on the County Committee and is not eligible for re-election. Bob has served as Chairperson, Vice Chair and member and his counsel and leadership will be greatly missed. FSA greatly appreciates his sacrifice of time and effort over the last 10 years.

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## **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. Entity changes, including the establishment of Trusts, are required record changes. Do not wait until DCP sign-up. 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. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land in which you have an interest can lead to USDA program ineligibility.

"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."

**EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE FROM FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)**

"Farmers in Smith County, who suffered crop or livestock losses due to severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes occurring 06/01/10 & continuing and 06/07/10 thru 07/21/10 may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans," Applications for assistance will be accepted by FSA until 03/15/2011 for the first period and 04/11/2011 for the second period.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay.

FSA's Farm Loan Programs staff is committed to new and existing customers, FSA customer goals and our rural communities. FSA's service extends beyond the typical loan, offering FSA customers ongoing consultation, advice and creative ways to make your farm business thrive. At the Farm Service Agency, we want to be your lender of first opportunity to overcome these adverse weather conditions and rebuild your operation to get back on track. FSA's loan staff can refer customers to other public and commercial financing sources that can serve as a blend with FSA's farm loan programs.

FSA loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster.

FSA loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. "Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers, who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise, may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses.

Farmers and ranchers that think they may eligible should contact the FSA County Office in Smith Center, Kansas or call 785-282-6618 for additional information and how to apply. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS**

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for new grain storage and in some cases added safety features and increased capacity of existing storage. These 7-12 year fixed rate loans can be made up to \$500,000. Hay and renewable biomass storage structures loans are also now available.

SEPTEMBER 2010 Approved FSFL Loan Interest Rates		
7-year up to \$50,000	10-year up to \$250,000	12-year up to \$500,000
2.25 % Interest Rate	2.875 % Interest Rate	3.125 % Interest rate

**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE DEADLINE**

December 1 is the deadline to purchase Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for crop year 2011 alfalfa, native and brome grass for grazing or hay, oats and honey. Spring planted forage crop coverage may also be purchased at this time. Each crop and crop type insured will cost \$250 with a maximum of \$750 per person for each county not to exceed \$1875 for all counties. The farm bill has a standing disaster program called "Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance" or SURE. To receive SURE benefits producers must purchase crop insurance on all applicable crops and must purchase NAP coverage on all forage crops of economic significance. Economic significance is defined as a crop with an expected normal value of \$9091 or less than five percent of the total expected value of all crops grown on the farm. "Farm" for determining economic significance is defined as the total value of all crops grown in all counties and states. Smith County producers who plant dual purpose or other feed crops for silage must insure these crops through their Federal Crop Insurance for 2011. The deadline to purchase Federal Crop Insurance for feed for silage is March 15.

