NEWSLETTER

Thomas County
Farm Service Agency

January 18, 2011

915 E Walnut
Colby KS 67701

PH 785-462-7671
FAX 785-462-9726
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

Office Staff
Ross B Sloan
County Executive Director
Phyllis Tholen
Program Technician
Kim Jones
Program Technician
Bonnie Schiltz
Program Technician
Char Rietcheck
Program Technician

County Committee
Craig Reed, Chair
Pete Ziegelmeier , Vice-Chair
Leisha Carpenter, Member

COC Meeting Date
1nd Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.

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Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Signup Begins for 2009 Losses

SURE signup for 2009 crop losses runs **Jan. 10, 2011 through July 29, 2011**. SURE provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. To qualify producers are required to have obtained crop insurance on all crops in all counties, or if crop insurance was not available, you must have participated in the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total revenue from all farms in which you have an interest, not individual crop losses. SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in counties with a Secretarial disaster declaration, including contiguous counties, with a crop production loss of at least 10 percent on at least one crop of economic significance. If not located in one of these counties, producers must show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent to a crop of economic significance.

Changing Bank Accounts

FSA payments are issued electronically to your bank account. To make these payments timely, notify us if you change your account or bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

County Committee Election Results

Craig Reed was re-elected to the FSA county committee in the December election.

2011 Acreage Reporting

The office is accepting wheat acres to complete the annual acreage reports. These reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Final date to report your small grains and alfalfa is **May 31, 2011**. If you have a NAP grass insurance policy the final date to report that acreage is 15 days prior to grazing. All other crops must be reported by **August 1, 2011.** . Also report failed acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, it was not harvested. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

2011 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Signup

This is the primary farm program farmers signup for annually. Signup deadline for DCP or ACRE is **June 1.** . FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. You can enroll a farm in DCP or ACRE, but not both. Once you enroll in ACRE the decision is irrevocable through the 2012 crop year, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1.

DCP Program payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Direct payments are made regardless of market prices. You can request advance payments based on 22 percent of the final direct payment. Final rates in cents per bushel: Wheat .52 Corn .28 Barley .24 Oats .024 Sorghum .35 Soybeans .44 Sunflowers .008 per lb.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield (high & low year not included) and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments;
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Thomas County FSA Office
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Change in Farming Operation

If you've bought or sold land, or leased or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Not maintaining accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Low cost financing between 2.5% and 3.75% percent is available to build or remodel on farm storage facilities for grain, hay and biomass storage. 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, flat storage, and new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass. Loan limits and 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.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

To qualify for the SURE program (story on front page) you must have Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the crops you can't insure with crop insurance, if the crops are economically significant to your operation. Economically significant crops are those that provide at least 5% of your revenue. The most common crop in our area needing NAP coverage is livestock forage crops, NAP is not needed on grazed forage to qualify for SURE, but it is available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. NAP forage coverage is available at FSA offices through March 15, 2011. The cost is $250 per crop, limited to $750 per county, or $1,875 for all counties. Losses on a NAP crop need to be reported within 15 days of the loss. Failure to get this NAP coverage could cost you thousands in lost SURE payments. Think ahead.

General Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland, construct farm buildings, improvements, annual operating expenses, equipment and livestock. We also work with beginning farmers, rural youth loans, limited resource and socially disadvantaged borrowers. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters. Loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to $300,000 or a guaranteed loan through a commercial lender with a maximum indebtedness of up to $1,094,000.

We also have Emergency Loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. For detailed information regarding loans and loan eligibility, contact the Logan County FSA Office at (785) 672-4861 for an appointment with a farm loan representative.

Down Payment Program

FSA has a special low interest 1.5% loan program to assist socially disadvantaged (minorities and females), and beginning farmers to purchase farm land. Down payment 5% maximum loan 45% of the less of: 1) purchase price, 2) appraised value, or 3) $500,000 x 45% = $225,000, with the remaining balance from a private party or commercial lender. We guarantee up to 95% of financing from a commercial lender.

Dates to Remember

Date	What
January 10	Start of 2009 SURE Program Enrollment
February 21	Office Closed – President's Day Holiday
March 15	Last Day to Purchase NAP Coverage on Feed for 2011
March 31	Last Day to Obtain 2010 Wheat Commodity Loans
May 31	Last Day to Report 2011 acres of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Alfalfa
June 1	Last Day to Enroll into DCP/ACRE Program
July 29	Last Day to Enroll into 2009 SURE Program