



WABAUNSEE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



Monte N. Johnson
County Executive Director
Wabaunsee County FSA Office
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Alma, Kansas 66401

Office Staff:
Deb Ridgway
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County Committee:
Shirley A Stuewe, Member
Janice Stevens, Member

COC Mtg. 2nd Thursday of the Month @ 10:00 a.m.

August 2010

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Phone: (785) 765-3329
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CRP General Sign-Up Ends Next Week

Producers interested in offering land in an effort to protect millions of acres of topsoil from erosion and improve the nation's natural resources, have until next Friday, Aug. 27, to sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program. Producers who enroll during the CRP general sign-up period will be expected to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance. Those interested should contact the Wabaunsee County FSA Office.

Banking Changes?

All Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. The benefit is that the direct deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Kansas Wildlife & Parks

The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) is conducting an Upland Bird Habitat Management Workshop to discuss what landowners can do for these birds on their land. Since, 97% of Kansas is privately owned, the fate of upland birds like quail and prairie chickens lies in the hands of private landowners. If you are concerned about declining upland bird numbers, such as quail and prairie chickens, then you will want to mark the evening of October 26, 2010 on your calendar. Jim Pitman, KDWP Small Game Program Coordinator, will discuss basic habitat requirements and life needs of quail and prairie chickens from the egg through the adult stage. In addition, Mr. Pitman will also discuss effective habitat management practices landowners can implement on their land. Next, Brad Rueschhoff, KDWP District Wildlife Biologist, will discuss the KDWP Private Landowner Assistance Programs which can provide landowners with technical and cost-share assistance on their land. Finally, Tracy Freeman, NRCS District Conservationist, will give an overview of USDA programs such as WHIP, EQIP, General CRP, and Continuous CRP practices which are beneficial to wildlife while also conserving soil and water resources. Time will be allowed after all the presentations for a question and answer session.

The workshop will take place on Tuesday October 26, 2010 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Alma Community Center located at 244 E. 11th St in Alma, Kansas. For more information please contact Brad Rueschhoff, District Wildlife Biologist at 785-273-6740.

Foreign Investors

Foreign investors acquiring or transferring any interest in agricultural land exceeding 10 acres are required to report the transaction to the Farm Service Agency within 90 days. An interest of 10 acres or less does not require a report unless annual sales proceeds exceed \$1,000.

Failure to disclose this interest can result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the land's market value.

Power of Attorney for Farm Programs

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. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

County FSA Committee Election

The Wabaunsee County Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be holding elections for the County Committee position. This covers the northeast corner of the county. Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers in LAA #1 by November 5, 2010. **Ballots must be signed on the back of the envelope and returned by December 6, 2010.**

Note: A special election will be held at a later date for LAA-2.

Wabaunsee County Committee member, Robert "Bob" Kraus, passed away on Monday, July 12, 2010. A lifelong resident of Eskridge, Bob was presently serving on the COC in his second term. He brought a wealth of knowledge to the committee and will be missed as a colleague and friend. We extend our sympathies to the Kraus family

CCC Commodity Loans and LDPs

The 2010 crop loan rates for Wabaunsee County are:

Wheat	\$2.77	Grain Sorghum	\$3.33 cwt.
Corn	\$1.98	Soybeans	\$4.93
Oats	\$1.43	Barley	\$1.85



Required AGI and IRS Forms

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have developed an electronic information exchange process strictly for the purpose of Average Gross Income (AGI) verification. This will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income (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. This process will compare the average amount of income to the AGI limitations. FSA and NRCS will receive a record that indicates whether or not the program participant appears to meet the income limits. No actual tax data will be included in this exchange process.

Written consent by completing Form CCC-927 or CCC-928 and mailing to the IRS will be required from each producer or payment recipient for this process. This form was included in the Kansas State Office Newsletter and is also available in the FSA Office.

Change Of Land Ownership

Any changes that could affect the farming operation, such as land ownership changes, operator changes, establishing estates/trusts or other changes, need to be reported now so changes can be made prior to enrolling the farm in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP). For farm ownership changes, you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility if you are participating.

Non-Discrimination 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

September 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Speltz, Turf Grass Sod, and all Small Grain Crops, except Oats and Barley for grain. For 2010, Continuous Crop Wheat planted with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for NAP.

The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Calendar Dates

August 27 - Last Day to Sign-Up for CRP

September 6 - Office Closed for Labor Day

