



Wilson/Woodson County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

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Hours

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

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Program Technician
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County Committee

Greg Carter, Member
Mark Huser, Chair
David Ibbetson, Vice-Chair
Gyla McVey, Member
Ben Stockebrand, Member

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Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through June 1 each year. If you elect the ACRE option, you are committed to this option through 2012, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Each year you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. 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.

General CRP Signup

On January 28, 2011, USDA announced the next general CRP signup will be held from **March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011**. Signup 41 is being implemented to accept offers of environmentally-sensitive acreage for new 10 to 15 year contract. CRP contracts scheduled to expire on September 30, 2011 will be eligible to be re-offered. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data for all the offers. New CRP contracts will become effective on October 1, 2011. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Livestock Deaths

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at your local FSA county office. Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove their eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. National payment rates are found on the LIP Fact Sheet at www.fsa.usda.gov. **A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent.** The final date to submit an Application for Payment is Jan. 30 of the following year.

Sorghum Checkoff Program Referendum

The Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order commonly known as the Sorghum checkoff Program, was implemented July 1, 2008, as authorized by the sorghum Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act, to maintain and expand existing markets and develop new markets for sorghum and sorghum products. The ACT requires the Secretary conduct a referendum among eligible sorghum producers and importers to determine whether the Order should be continued. Eligible producers may cast a ballot at their local FSA County Office during a 4-week period beginning February 1, and ending February 28, 2011. **Producers who were engaged in the production and sale of sorghum or importation of sorghum and who provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, during the period from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, are eligible to vote in the Referendum. All eligible producers must complete LS-379 in its entirety and sign that they paid an assessment on sorghum between July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.**

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction is complete. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days from the date the complainant knew, or should have known, of the alleged discrimination.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. **SIGNUP FOR 2009 SURE BEGAN JANUARY 10, 2011 AND ENDS JULY 29, 2011. PRODUCERS MUST CERTIFY ALL ACRES THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN.**

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. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a revenue-based commodity program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill as an alternative to DCP. Sign up for ACRE occurs between October 1 and June 1 each crop year. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield 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.

Producers who elect ACRE commit to this option through crop year 2012. Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans and sunflowers.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. To elect ACRE for a farm the first year, producers must complete an election form CCC-509 ACRE as well as an enrollment form. The producer must again enroll each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Crop Reporting

Producers are required to file form FSA-578 Certification (crop report), for the farm by the applicable final reporting date. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for **ALL CROPS and LAND USES, including land hayed or grazed, failed and prevented planted acres, is essential.** If no FSA-578 is filed, it could cause loss of program benefits in DCP, ACRE, SURE, Marketing Assistance Loans, LDP's and CRP. **NAP CROPS MUST BE REPORTED 15 DAYS PRIOR TO HAYING OR GRAZING.**

**Wheat, Oats and Barley May 31, 2011
 Corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, CRP, land hayed or grazed and sunflowers, August 2, 2011**

May, 31, 2011	Certify Wheat, Oats, Barley
August 2, 2011	Certify Corn, Soybeans, Grain Sorghum, CRP, land hayed or grazed and sunflowers
Jan., 10 - July 29, 2011	SURE signup
March 14 - April 15, 2011	CRP General signup
Feb 1 - Feb 28, 2011	Sorghum Checkoff
Ongoing	Continuous CRP signup