

# Anderson County News

County Committee meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
Members - Keith Hirt, Sandra Kueser, and Jason Beckmon

Farm Loan Programs – By Appointment

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Jolene Alexander, County Executive Director

**April, 2009**



OFFICE STAFF

Michelle Rockers, Brenda Hubler, and Denise King

TEMPORARY – Suzanna Cubit

FIELD ASSISTANT – Ryan Tastove

## **DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)/AVERAGE CROP REVENUE SIGNUP**

DCP signup began on December 1, 2008, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2009. This signup deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009 to give farmers time to learn about the ACRE option. The DCP program is similar to 2008, but payment acres are reduced from 85% to 83.3%. The payment rates are the same as 2008 crops. Counter-cyclical payments will also be available as in previous years, or landowners can choose the ACRE option for the farm, which is based on current year planted crop revenue instead of being paid on your bases like counter-cyclical payments. The ACRE election and contract will be available soon, but you can sign up in DCP, and elect ACRE in the future. Advance payments are available for DCP direct payments at 22% like last year. The final payments will be made in October, 2009.

## **AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE) MEETING**

FSA and the Anderson County Extension Office will host a **Farm Bill meeting on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the extension office at 411 S Oak in Garnett.**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be glad to make any arrangements that are needed. We will cover general farm bill information, but the main focus of the meeting will be the new ACRE option. We will discuss the provisions of the ACRE contract, and a spreadsheet will be available to run individual scenarios with different yields and prices to see what the potential payments may be for a farm. All landowners must agree to the ACRE election, and the election is irrevocable after the signup deadline for the year it is enrolled through 2012. The election is farm by farm, so you can enroll some farms in ACRE, and leave other farms in DCP. An ACRE contract will be signed each year like DCP to establish payment shares and interests. DCP still includes direct payments and counter-cyclical payments when prices are low as in the last farm bill. The main difference is that ACRE looks at prices and production (revenue) for crops grown this year, and counter-cyclical payments are based on price only for established bases and yields. Farms enrolled in ACRE will sacrifice 20% of the direct payment on the farm, and 30% of the loan rate for commodity loans and LDP's in return for a potentially higher payment if revenue is down.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE)**

There will be one more opportunity to be eligible for 2008 crop losses under the SURE program. If you think you have an overall loss in revenue for ALL CROPS on ALL FARMS in 2008, you may want to consider paying the "buy-in" fee for crops that were not insured or didn't have NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. The deadline to pay the fee is May 18, 2009. To be eligible for a SURE payment, at least one crop must suffer a 10% or greater loss in revenue. Payments will be 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue, and cannot exceed 90% of the expected revenue for the "farm" which includes all crops on all farms in all counties. Total Farm Revenue includes estimated crop value, crop insurance indemnities, NAP payments, market assistance loan proceeds, 15% of the direct DCP payments, plus counter-cyclical payments.

## **YOUTH LOANS THROUGH FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

The USDA Farm Service Agency makes operating loans to youth 10 to 20 years old to establish and operate income producing projects. To qualify, the individual must be a U.S. citizen, live in open country or a town of less than 50,000 people, and be unable to get a loan from other sources. Up to \$5,000 can be used to finance income producing projects in conjunction with participation in 4-H, FFA, or a similar club. Some common projects include livestock, crop production, nursery crops, vegetable, fruit and tree production. The funds may be used to buy livestock, equipment, plants, supplies, and pay operating expenses for the project. Interest rates for these loans are determined periodically; however, when the loan is made, the interest rate is fixed. The current **April interest rate is 2.250%**. Contact the Farm Service Agency at 343 W. 23rd St. Ottawa, KS 66067, 785-242-3527 for additional information and/or visit the FSA web site for Farm Loan Programs at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**April 16 - Farm Bill Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Extension Office.**  
**May 18 – Last Day to Pay “Buy-in” Fee for 2008 SURE (disaster)**  
**June 1 – Last Day to Apply for 2008 Corn, Soybean, or Milo Commodity Loans**  
**June 1 – Last Day to Report Wheat, Oats, and Barley Acres Without Late Fee**  
**August 3 – Last Day to Report Planted Crops, Grass, & CRP Without Late Fee**  
**August 14 – DCP and ACRE Extended Signup Deadline for 2009 Crop Year**  
**Ongoing – Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Signup**

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

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