



Atchison County
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County Committee Meetings – 2nd Friday of each month

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



July 2009

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

RICK ABEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ACRE/DCP SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 14TH

Signup for benefits under the Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) programs will end on August 14th. There will be no extension of this deadline and there are no late-filing provisions. DCP is the same annual program producers have been enrolled in for the past several years. It provides guaranteed direct payments and potential for counter cyclical payments if market prices fall below specific triggers for each covered commodity over the course of the 2009 marketing year. DCP payments are based on crop acreage bases that were established on the farm under the previous farm bill. ACRE provides a revenue guarantee for your farm. The mechanics of ACRE starts with the calculation of a 2009 Kansas State revenue guarantee, determined from Olympic average yields, by crop, for the period beginning in 2004 and ending in 2008. If you participate, you will establish a 2009 revenue guarantee for your farm based on Olympic average yields, by crop for 2004-2008. An Olympic average drops the highest and lowest yields during the base period, then averages the three remaining yields. In order to earn an ACRE payment, the 2009 Kansas actual revenue, by crop, and your 2009 farm actual revenue, by crop, must fall below the guarantees. If one or both of the guarantees are exceeded by the 2009 actual revenue, then no ACRE payment will be earned. Participants agree to a 20% reduction in direct DCP payments for the farm, and a 30% reduction in county loan rates for each commodity on the farm. No counter cyclical benefits are available to farms enrolled in ACRE. ACRE payments are based on the covered crops that you actually plant on your farm. Determining if ACRE will pay you benefits to offset the direct payment and marketing loan reduction you will incur, requires some speculation on your part about what 2009 yields and prices will do. There are various spreadsheets available to assist you in making a decision. One was designed by FSA and is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. Anyone interested in running some numbers can contact our office for assistance.

NOTE: We have a number of all grass farms and CRP farms with crop acreage base that enroll in DCP annually. If you are one of these farms, please call or stop by the office. The requirements to complete new eligibility forms for 2009 makes for large mailings to owners and operators and budget constraints have limited our postage.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM PAYS FOR LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSS

FSA recently announced signup periods for benefits under the LIP program. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized funding to provide indemnity to producers that lost eligible livestock numbers, above normal mortality, as a result of an eligible natural disaster event. There will be three possible periods of time for benefit enrollment. The law provides for losses incurred from January 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011. Each calendar year is a loss period. General rules are: 1) You must notify FSA by filing a notice of loss within 30 days of the date of death loss due to disaster conditions. 2) You must provide verifiable and reliable documentation of the death, and the cause of the death. 3) You must provide a beginning and ending inventory of each type and category of livestock affected at the time of each disaster occurrence. 4) You must file an application for payment by January 30th of the year following the calendar year of the loss.

EXCEPTIONS to filing requirements: For 2008 calendar year losses, you must file a notice of loss, and an application for payment by September 13th, 2009. For livestock losses that occurred from January 1, 2009 through July 12th, 2009, producers must file a notice of loss by September 13th, and then an application for payment by January 30th, 2010. For losses that occur after July 12th, 2009, the general rules for filing apply.

Documenting death losses can be a challenge, especially for 2008. Because there are death losses that fall under normal mortality in addition to disaster caused losses, it is important that all deaths be documented. Proof might include rendering truck receipts, veterinary records, tax records, private insurance records, bank records, production records, and dated pictures among other items. The primary goal is to be able to verify the type and weight range of the animal, the date of death, the cause of death, and the ownership of the animal. All documentation is subject to review and approval of the Atchison County FSA Committee. Payments will be issued after approval of the application for payment on all eligible losses in excess of the normal mortality for each type and weight range of animal.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

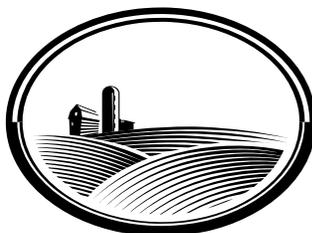
- Funds are available for loans for grain bins. These are 7-year loans with an annual installment. FSA will loan up to 85% of the cost to construct new facilities and appurtenances. The interest rate is locked in for the life of the loan. The July interest rate is 3.25%.
- County Committee election nominations are being accepted through August 3rd. If you are an eligible voter in local administrative area #2 in Atchison County (Lancaster township, Center township, and that portion of Benton township that lies east of Ellsworth road), you are eligible to be nominated to run for a County Committee position. Contact the FSA office to obtain a nomination petition. Election ballots will be mailed to voters in LAA#2 in November, and the election will be held in the first week of December.



REMINDERS!!!

- Planted acreage of corn, milo, soybeans, and other acreage non-small grain acreage must be reported to FSA by August 14th. Late-filed fees equal to, at least, \$46 per farm will be applied for reports provided after the August 14th deadline. Acreage reports are required for eligibility in DCP, CRP, ACRE, SURE, loan deficiency payments, commodity loans, the non-insured assistance program (NAP) and crop insurance.
- Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land must report such holdings to FSA within 90 days of purchase to avoid penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.
- FSA programs are available to everyone. People with disabilities that require special accommodations such as vision or hearing impairment, or accessibility to the FSA office should contact Rick Abel, CED, at 913-833-5460.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try www.fsa.usda.gov.



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