



September 2009



Cherokee County News

Cherokee County USDA Service Center

Cherokee County FSA

300 E. Country Rd.
Columbus, KS 66725
620-429-3360 (phone)
620-429-1567 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

County Committee

Ronald Westervelt
Herb Jarrett
Steve Rider
David Scott, Advisor

County Committee
meets
first Wednesday of the
month, 8 a.m.

Staff

Donna Winter
Patti Roark
Linda White
Rosemary Pillar

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that result from adverse weather. This may include floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, tornados, lightning, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Losses now being considered must have occurred between July 13 and Dec. 31, 2009. Step one, the notice of loss, must be filed 30 days after death is apparent. Step two, the application for payment must be filed by Jan. 30, 2010.

Upon filing, documentation showing kind, type, weight, number of livestock dead, and evidence to support date, location and cause of death should be provided. Measurement service may be requested to help verify livestock loss if we are notified within one week of the death.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) assists with grazing losses during the normal grazing period that are due to drought or to fire on federally managed land. Producers must buy private insurance or NAP for the grazing land they want covered. County approval to accept applications and the number of payments made is based on drought intensity and duration as rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor, starting at the D2 (severe) level.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), assists with eligible losses including feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Crop insurance or NAP must be purchased on all crops in all counties where the producer has farming interests. Losses in 2008 and 2009 prior to Sept. 14 must have notice of loss and application for payment filed by Dec. 14, 2009. Notice of losses after Sept. 14 must be filed by 30 days after the loss is apparent. Last date to file for payment is Jan. 30, 2010.

Generally, eligible livestock under these programs includes beef, buffalo, dairy, catfish, chickens, deer, crawfish, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. ELAP also adds honey bees and farm-raised fish.

Producers don't have to purchase NAP or insurance where otherwise required if they meet socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher provisions.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS CHANGES

FSA now offers 7, 10 or 12 year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment.

The new maximum principal amount is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. The loan term depends on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate at which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payment may be made via a partial disbursement then a final disbursement when the construction is done.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain, pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits, (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage facilities.

More information on these loans is available from your local county office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

CROP LOAN AVAILABILITY

To be eligible for a loan, operators and owners must have beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is either repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Producers must also be in compliance with conservation and wetland procedures, acreage reporting provisions, and Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. Participation in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is not necessary to be loan eligible.

Loan rates for Cherokee Co. are as follows: Wheat (SRW), \$1.87/bu.; Wheat (HRW), \$2.66/bu.; Corn, \$2.09/bu.; Grain sorghum, \$3.49/cwt.; and Soybeans, \$4.96/bu.



*****DCP 2009 final payments and CRP annual payments will begin to be issued in October. There is no need to worry, but you will notice that your DCP payment statement will look a little different this year if you took an advance payment. If this is the case, the advance payment will show as an offset against the total amount that you are eligible to receive under the 2009 DCP.

SURE PROGRAM UPDATE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is the successor to the prior ad hoc crop disaster programs. Eligibility, once triggering events (county designation or farm production losses) have occurred, is based on revenue computations.

Cherokee Co. has a primary Secretarial disaster designation due to conditions this spring. For producers who carried the required insurance for 2009, SURE payments will be figured at 60 percent of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual farm revenue. (Sign up for SURE to be announced later).

A fact sheet with more details and examples and a SURE calculator are available at the county office and on the FSA website.



INTEREST RATE FOR DOWN PAYMENT FARM OWNERSHIP PROGRAM REDUCED TO 1.5%

Down Payment Farm Ownership Loans are available for qualifying beginning farmer and/or socially disadvantaged applicants to help obtain financing for the purchase of a farm or ranch. The applicant must put down 5 percent of the purchase price. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 45 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible. The FSA loan rate will be locked in for the full 20 years of the loan, and currently the interest rate is 1.5 percent. For further information please contact the local Farm Loan Program office at 620-724-6227, Ext 229.

FSA GUARANTEED LOANS

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g. banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions), with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Farm Operating purposes. More information regarding FSA guaranteed loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227, Ext 229. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 6	Committee election ballots mailed to all known eligible voters in LAA #2.
Dec. 1	Last date to purchase NAP haying and grazing policies.
Dec. 7	Last day to return voted ballots in the committee election.
Jan. 1	Elected committee member and alternate(s) take office.

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT

Foreign investors in U.S. agricultural lands in are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S Secretary of Agriculture through the FSA. Agricultural land is land used for farming, ranching, or timber production. The report must be filed within 90 days of the transaction. Failure to file a report, filing a late or inaccurate report can result in fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the land.

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