



APRIL 2009

CHEYENNE COUNTY FSA  
614B WEST US HWY 36  
ST FRANCIS, KS 67756

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FAX: 785-332-2035  
www.fsa.usda.gov

**HOURS**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. CT

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**  
RON MAIFELD  
STEVE BUSSE  
ROGER MOORE  
RIKKI RUEB

**COMMITTEE MEETS**  
2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH AT 1:00 PM

**OFFICE STAFF**  
ANGIE BERENS, CED  
VERA KELLER, PT  
CINDY BURR, PT  
JOLENE DODD, PT  
EILENE GILLILAND, PT  
DENNON FLEMMING, PT

**FARM LOAN MANAGER**  
PATTY ECKHARDT  
(785) 899-3070

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Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, the vision impaired or the hearing impaired. If accommodations are required, please contact Angie Berens, CED at (785) 332-2183.

## Farm Program Signup

We are currently in the middle of signup for the new farm program, and have a long way to go! If you haven't made an appointment, please call us right away. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the final date to signup and certify your wheat acreage. If you aren't in before this date, you can't be in the program. It does take longer this year than past years due to new forms brought about by the new farm bill, but if you get us your crop insurance information, we can usually have some things started before you come in.



### CRP Maintenance/Burn Reminder

It is time to be performing the burn or other maintenance activities to your CRP contracts. Every maintenance and management activity should be included in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO), whether it is a required or voluntary activity. You can review your CPO to determine which control measures have been prescribed on your contract. **Those with practice CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat, are required to burn at least once, and usually have another management practice scheduled as well. You can now burn up to April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## ACRE

ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) is one of the new Disaster Programs. ACRE requires you to sign into the program, much as you do for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter cyclical payments under DCP. Currently, the sign-up period has not been announced, but they have announced some preliminary estimates for Kansas:

	Guarantee Price	Bench Yield	Per Acre Guarantee
Wheat	\$6.64	35.3	\$210.95
Dry Corn	\$4.15	96.0	\$358.56
Irr. Corn	\$4.15	188.0	\$702.18
Milo	\$3.64	76.0	\$248.98
Soybeans	\$9.73	35.0	\$306.50
Dry Flowers	\$0.213	1067.0	\$204.54
Irr. Flowers	\$0.213	1714.0	\$328.57

We will put an article in the newspaper as soon as signup is announced. This is the program that binds the farm in ACRE through 2012 and requires you to lose 20% of your direct guaranteed farm program payments for the possibility of an ACRE payment on a crop or crops. Check out [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp) for more information and updates, which they plan to make on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. Among other things, the act creates an agricultural disaster relief trust fund to meet financial obligations of 5 new disaster assistance programs. One of those is SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance). For SURE, all crops of economic significance must be insured on all your farms in order to be eligible. They have just announced an extension to May 18, 2009 to "buy-in" to the program. You may buy-in on crops that didn't have insurance coverage in 2008 in order for your farming operation to be eligible for 2008 SURE.

### **NEW PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES**

With the new farm program came some new rules regarding eligibility for payments. A change from previous years is the fact that all people in an entity operating ground must be performing some type of labor and/or management. It used to be that the majority interest holders could provide this on behalf of the entity. Another change is what is becoming known as the "spousal rule". This allows one spouse in an operation to provide labor and/or management and that contribution then counts for their spouse as well. Previously, both spouses needed to be providing this in order for both spouses to earn a share of the operator's payment.

## CRP Decisions

We have 50,459 acres under CRP in Cheyenne County. Of that, 11,155 acres are scheduled to expire this fall and another 15,585 expiring in the fall of 2010. That means over half of our enrolled acres will expire in the next year and a half. They have not announced another general signup, so the question becomes "What do we do?" You can sign up for continuous CRP practices, which include filter strips, grass waterways, buffers, field borders, etc. With expiring CRP, you can sign up for these anytime within 6 months of current contract expiration so there will be no lapse of coverage. However, these practices probably won't cover a full field, so, what about the rest? Well, you will be able to leave it in grass and hay or graze it. Or, if you want to farm it, you can make application to start destroying the cover before your contract expires. There are different rules depending on how soon you want to plant a crop, so please come see us to discuss.

### New Employee!

On February 9, 2009, Dennon Flemming joined our staff. You may know her as Dennon Zimbelman. Dennon joined our staff following the retirement of Betty Schorzman. While we miss Betty, we welcome Dennon as she makes a valuable addition to our staff. She and her husband Drew Flemming are moving back to the area after being in Topeka for a while.

### *Record Changes*

If you have bought, sold, are renting different land, or have changed entities, such as created trusts, please be sure to report those changes to the FSA office immediately. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Failure to maintain accurate records with the FSA office, on all land you have an interest in, can lead to possible program ineligibility and/or fines.

### DCP-Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program Signup

**Sign-up** is underway for the DCP 2009 program year. The final date to sign into the DCP program is **June 1, 2009**.

**Advance direct payments** of 22% can be requested any month through September 2009. The final direct payment will be made in October 2009. **Make an appointment today!** Our phone number is **785-332-2183**.



### *Check Out our LOW March Interest Rates:*

Farm Stored Facility Loan Interest Rate  
 2.25%  
 Commodity Loan Interest Rate  
 1.5%

*Please contact our office for more information about our loan programs.*

### Dates to Remember

March 31	Final date to request a 2008 crop small grains loan or LDP
15 days before grazing	Deadline for certifying NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) crop grazing acreage
May 18	Deadline to pay buy-in fee on 2008 crops for SURE eligibility
May 31	Final date to request 2008 crop feed grains, oilseeds, and corn loan or LDP
June 1	Final date to apply for 2009 crop Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
June 1	Final date to report small grain acreages



### WEBSITES



FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
 Kansas FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)  
 USDA - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)



Don't forget to report your wheat, oats, and small grain acreages to our office by **June 1, 2009**, OR, if you're grazing NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) acreage, we need it certified at least 15 days before you turn livestock out.

### Livestock Indemnity Program



The new Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock deaths due to adverse weather. You must let us know within 30 days of each death, then at the end of the year, you can make application taking into account all the deaths you have reported through the year. We'll need records supporting your beginning livestock inventory and proof of livestock deaths.

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