



Cowley County FSA News



SEPTEMBER 2009

Cowley County FSA

2118 East 9th Ave
Winfield, KS 67156-3318
TEL: (620) 221-2060
FAX: (620) 221-4162

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

J O Brown, Chairperson
Casey Woner, Vice-Chairperson
Brad McMinn, Member
Beverly Reiter, Advisor

COC meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Linda A Ellis, County Exec Director
Jaimie Bannister, Program Technician
Pamala Bain, Program Technician
Barbara Hrencher, Program Technician
Bonnie Miller, Program Technician
Denise Noonan, Field Assistant
Lynn Reed, Field Assistant
Gary Nuss, Farm Loan Manager
Nick Bergkamp, Farm Loan Officer
Kim Cerny, Farm Loan Officer Trainee
Vickie Thiel, Program Technician
Susan Long, Program Technician



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.65/bu
Corn	\$2.08/bu
Soybeans	\$4.92/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.47/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.30/cwt

RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to report the changes to the FSA Office **within 30 days** from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.



Mark Your Calendars

2009 dates FSA offices will be closed:

October 12 – Columbus Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1- New Years Day

NEW LIVESTOCK LOSS PROGRAM

The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred **livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality as a result of adverse weather**. Eligible disaster conditions may include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, tornados, lightning, hurricanes, and wildfires. Federal Regulations for LIP were published on July 2, 2009. Signup for LIP started July 13, 2009.

Producers will need to provide documentation detailing the proof of death to indicate that the livestock deaths are a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. It will also be necessary for producers to provide documents detailing the quantity and kind, type and weight range of livestock that died as a result of the adverse weather event. Documentation may include, but is not limited to the following: bank or other loan documents, FEMA records, tax records, National Guard records, private insurance documents, production records, property tax records, purchase records, rendering truck receipts, veterinarian records, and written contracts.

In the event verifiable documentation is not available, producers will be required to present reliable records documenting the proof of death along with verifiable beginning and ending livestock inventory.

The final date to file a notice of loss is **30 days following the death loss** for the balance of 2009. Application for payment for 2009 losses can be filed after the notice of loss, but must be filed by **January 30, 2010**. Contact our office for details.

CRP Maintenance

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) agreed when signing their 10-15 year contract to maintain these acres according to the program guidelines. That means attaining a stand of grass, controlling noxious weeds, controlling brush and trees, and taking any other actions needed to adequately maintain the CRP cover.

NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" **within 15 days of when a loss is apparent**, due to drought, hail, etc.

Low Interest Farm Loans Available to Those in Need

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has low interest farm loans available to those who are unable to obtain commercial credit through the local bank of Farm Credit Services. Loans for the purchase of real estate, livestock, machinery, or to pay operating expenses are available now through FSA at interest rates ranging from 1.5 to 4.875%.

Although FSA does have special loan programs for Social Disadvantaged Applicants, beginning farmers and rural youth ages 10 to 20 years old, FSA loan programs are available to all eligible farm operators.

If you would like to know how you can take advantage of FSA Farm Loan Programs or would like additional details, please contact Gary or Nick at the address or phone number above.

Direct Deposit

Payments made electronically using Direct Deposit has cut down on the number of missing or late payments. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Treasury will issue funds and this is called check centralization. The benefit of Direct Deposit is payment will be deposited within 2-3 days. If you do not have Direct Deposit a check will be delayed 7-10 days.

Any changes to your account or financial institution will have an affect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.

Foreign Investors

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction **within 90 days** of the date of the transaction.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

County Committee Election

Nominations have been completed for a position on the three-member Cowley County FSA Committee. The area hosting the election this year is Local Administrative Area 2 which includes the *townships of Vernon, Beaver, Bolton, Creswell and Pleasant Valley*. All currently active farm/ranch owners or operators are eligible to vote in this election. Ballots will be mailed out in early November, and must be returned to the applicable county office by December 7, 2009.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Signup

NRCS is holding the Conservation Stewardship Program signup through September 30, 2009.

The program is primarily designed to reward farmers and ranchers for conservation measures which have already been completed or adopted and to assist with improving levels of stewardship.

Is CSP Right for You? To be a good candidate for CSP you must be willing to:

- Commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities
- Have and maintain records of your farming activities.
- Enter into a 5 year contract to maintain, improve and manage existing practices.

A producer self screening checklist plus more information is available on the WEB at www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp

Payments will be based on "performance payment points" unique to each agricultural operation and are relative to existing and proposed activities. Basic payment types consist of Annual Payments for existing and additional conservation measures and Supplemental Payments for adoption of resource conserving crop rotations.

For more information contact your local NRCS office.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

Control trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.



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