

# DECATUR COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

December 2009

## COUNTY COMMITTEE

Michael Coleman, Chairperson  
Robert Henningson, Vice Chair.  
David Meitl, Reg. Member

## OFFICE STAFF

Diane Barrett, CED  
Sue Hillebrand, PT  
Candi Ketterl, PT  
Megan Carter, PT

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM-4:30 PM  
Phone: (785) 475-3131

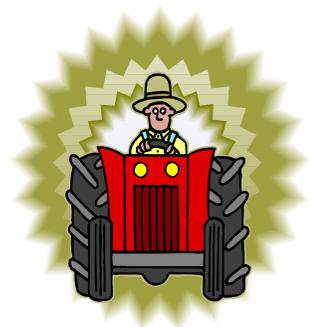
## County Committee Meeting Times

The Decatur County Committee meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM, in the Decatur County USDA Service Center Conference Room.



## Special Accommodations

For individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment, we will make special accommodations upon request. If special accommodations are required, please contact the FSA office and we will make any arrangements that are needed.



## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

During this Fall harvest many producer's have commented about the lack of storage available. The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program could be the answer. This program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

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
- Hay
- Renewable biomass

## COC Election Results

Robert R Henningson was re-elected to serve on the Decatur County FSA Office for his second three year term. Elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate was Denise Abbey.

<b>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER</b>	
<b>December 25</b>	Office closed for Christmas Day Holiday
<b>January 1</b>	Office closed for New Year's Day Holiday
<b>January 18</b>	Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr birthday Holiday
<b>Continues</b>	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program enrollment

## 2010 DCP and ACRE Signup

Enrollment into the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and ACRE program has begun. The enrollment period will continue through June 1, 2010, late filed applications will not be accepted. Producers can enroll by using the eDCP automated website, or they can contact our office to schedule an appointment.

Under the DCP Program, payments are calculated by using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

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. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, the farm will not receive counter-cyclical payments, the direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

## 2010 Crop Acreage Reporting

Producers are reminded that several programs administered thru USDA require an annual acreage report to be eligible for program payments. Our office has begun taking appointments to complete the 2010 crop year acreages.

The deadline to report small grains and alfalfa acreage is **MAY 31, 2010**.

The final date to report the balance of your acreage including corn, grain sorghum, feed, sunflowers, fallow and CRP is **August 1, 2010**.

Producers that have a NAP policy must report those acreages **15 days** prior to the onset of harvest or grazing.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (Not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.