



May 2010

Norton County News

**Norton County
USDA Service Center**

**Norton County FSA
PO Box 365
Norton, KS 67654
(785)877-5156
(785) 877-2286
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks**

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Ivan Kingham,
COC Chairperson
Donald Lowry,
COC Vice-Chairperson
Dennis Leichter,
COC Regular Member
Mindy Harting, COC Advisor

County Committee meets
the second Wednesday of
each month at 8:00 AM.

Staff
John Vogt, FLM
Erin M Clason, CED
Pat Bohl, FLO
Charlene Weskamp, PT
Denise Schmitz, PT
Lisa Rhodes, PT
Sheila Engel, PT
Susan Hillebrand, PT
Nancy Hager, PT
Darrel Barnett, Field Assistant
Clarence Wetter,
Field Assistant
Rebecca Wetter,
Field Assistant

2010 Acreage Reporting Requirements

As in previous years it is required that producers participating in FSA programs report all acres (noncropland and cropland) to be eligible for certain benefits. Producers are encouraged to report 2010 perennial crops, fall planted crops and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres timely.

The permanent disaster programs require acreage reports in order to be eligible. Generally the program eligibility is based on the intended use of the reported acreage for either cropland or non-cropland. Accurate reporting of the intended use is critical to administration of these programs. **Once recorded, intended use cannot be revised or changed. Acreages with multiple uses must have accurate primary intended use recorded.**

Acreage reports may be filed by the operator or owner, though some programs have more restrictive reporting requirements. For example CRP requires that the report must be provided by a producer that is a signatory to the CRP contract. The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the permanent disaster programs have this same procedure. It is important that acreage reports are obtained from the correct producer(s) as directed by the applicable program.

The 2010 acreage reporting deadlines include:

- **Small Grains (Wheat, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Barley) – June 1st, 2010**
- **NAP Crops – The earlier of August 1st, 2010 or 15 days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop**
- **All Other Crops including CRP unless required by a specific program – August 1st, 2010.**

If acres are reported after the applicable acreage reporting deadline a late-filed report may be accepted. A field visit must be conducted to verify the crop and late-file fees will be assessed.

Last Call for 2009 Commodity Loans!!!

2009 Commodity Loans Availability deadline is approaching! Remember beneficial interest must be maintained through the duration of the loan or until the quantity is repaid at principal plus interest. Contact the Norton FSA Office for an application and loan disbursement appointment!!!

Commodity Loan Deadline:
2009 feed grains and soybeans:
May 31, 2010

**Norton County Loan Rate: Wheat: \$2.52
Corn: \$1.95**

**April Interest Rate: \$1.375
(Lowest interest rate in the credit market)**

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Compliance Activities for 2009 and 2010 Payment Eligibility

Compliance with the average AGI limitations is an eligibility requirement to receive payments and benefits under many of the programs administered by FSA and NRCS. The review and verification of AGI compliance certifications submitted by program participants is required to ensure the accuracy of payments and the integrity of these programs. FSA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have finalized a data-sharing process for average AGI compliance and verification. IRS will report the results of this process to FSA on a regular basis. FSA will use this information to determine whether a program participant complies with the average AGI limitations, or if further review is required. The average AGI verification and data comparison processes begin with participants providing consent to IRS for the use and disclosure of tax information to FSA for AGI compliance purposes.

IRS requires written consent from the individual or legal entity (members are also required to submit consent) to provide USDA verification of the average adjusted gross income for that individual or legal entity. This written consent is provided by using a CCC-927, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information - Individual; or if a legal entity, a CCC-928, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information – Legal Entity. Failure to provide the written consent may require refund of applicable payments received from FSA and NRCS for the years 2009 and 2010. Timeliness is essential in order to avoid any delays in the issuance of 2010 program payments and the possibility of refunding 2009 program payments. The consent forms should be mailed directly to IRS at the address given on the form no later than June 15th, 2010. Do not return the completed and signed forms to the FSA Office. Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms may be picked up at any Farm Service Agency Office or found online at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/fsa/> or <http://intra3.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>.

Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans

These loans are for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to purchase real estate. The applicant must place 5% down; FSA will provide 45% of the purchase price up to a maximum of \$225,000. The balance of the purchase price will be obtained from a conventional lender or seller financing. A beginning farmer/rancher must have been farming/or ranching at least 3 years and not more than 10 years. A beginning farmer/rancher cannot own real estate that exceeds 30% of the median farm size for the county.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Operating and Farm Ownership Loans

Farm operating loans up to \$300,000 are available for annual operating or term operating loans up to 7 years. Loans can be used for family living, machinery, breeding livestock, refinance most operating type debts and real estate improvements or repairs. Farm ownership loans up to \$300,000 are available to purchase real estate and real estate improvements or repairs for terms up to 40 years.



FSA Reminders:

**Foreigners who have bought or sold U.S. agricultural land must report the transaction within 90 days on forms available at any FSA Office. As an Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requirement, failure to report can result in a civil penalty up to 25% of the fair market value of the land.

If you are **delinquent on any non-tax debts to the federal government, you are ineligible for Commodity Loans & Loan Deficiency Program benefits, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans

** Report intentions to **break up** land before doing so (or at least before planting it). Altering wetlands or breaking up highly erodible land can cause payment ineligibility.

** **Timely** report all changes to your farming operation as soon as they occur, including changes in other counties. This includes owner, operator, address, and creation of entities, trusts, direct deposit & bank account information and crop share changes. If you have purchased land, please bring in a copy of the deed to verify change.

*****Special accommodations** will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

*** **Controlled Substances**
Any person convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant which includes marijuana, opium, poppies or other drug producing plants.

**Guaranteed
Operating and Farm Ownership Loans**

Farmers and ranchers may obtain up to \$1,112,000 in Guaranteed Farm Ownership and /or Farm Operating Loans. Funds can be used to purchase or enlarge a farm, refinance debt or for most operating uses. Under this program your local lender makes the loan and FSA provides a guarantee of up to 95% (depends on the circumstances) on the loan. This allows your local lender to continue to help you even if you are experiencing a decline in your financial condition. The interest rate is negotiated with the lender but should not exceed the interest rate charged to their average customers. You could qualify for Interest Assistance (4% rate reduction) if your cash flow and financial statements show the need. Loans for real estate can be amortized for up to 40 years and for chattel up to 7 years. Contact your local commercial lenders who participate in the guaranteed loan program. Local FSA Service Centers have lists of participating lenders.

Conservation Compliance

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 made certain changes to Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions for violating producers. In the past, County Committees (COCs) were the only officials that made a good faith determination. Reinstating the producer's eligibility becomes effective when producers sign an approved conservation or mitigation plan, as applicable. Now, before the producers are provided with the conservation or mitigation plans for signature, a COC approved good faith determination must receive State Executive Director (SED) approval with technical concurrence by the NRCS State Conservationist. HELC or WC violators who do not receive a COCs good faith exemption with approval by the SED and technical concurrence from the State Conservationist shall remain ineligible for USDA program benefits for the years in violation. All HELC violators that have been provided an exemption are subject to a Graduated Payment Reduction penalty. The penalty ranges from a minimum of earned program benefits for the year of the violation or \$1,000 to a maximum of \$10,000. If the HELC violation occurred on sodbusted land the penalty is increased by 20%.

Dates to Remember	
June 1	2010 DCP and ACRE Sign-Up
June 1	2010 Acreage Certification Reporting Deadline: SMALL GRAINS Remember to report all cropland and noncropland acres you have a risk in.
Continues	2010 Wool and Unshorn Pelt Participants: Sign your CCC-633EZ page 1 to become eligible for a 2010 Unshorn Pelt or Wool LDP
Continues	Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for 2008 crop losses
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	MILCX Program

**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
**DAILY LDP RATES - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/displayLPRates?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=ldp>

REMEMBER to call in for an APPOINTMENT to save time and manage your SPRING Activities!!!!

A "Thank You" to all the producers who have embraced the flexible appointment system!
Your adaptation to change is greatly appreciated!!

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