



Ellis County Farm Service Agency

2715 Canterbury Dr, Hays, KS 67601

Phone: 785-628-3081 Fax: 785-625-6065 February 2010



Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

County Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month @ 7:30 A.M.

COC Members: Randy Huser, William Hoffman, and Opal Flinn

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP AND ACREAGE REPORTING UNDERWAY

The DCP and ACRE signup for 2010 will continue until **June 1, 2010**. Remember that there are **NO LATE FILE PROVISIONS** for this program (all signatures must be in by the deadline). If you are not signed up before the deadline you will not be able to participate in the program for 2010.

While you are in to sign up your DCP/ACRE contacts you may also report your small grains including wheat, barley, rye, oats, and triticale. The deadline to report these acres is **June 1, 2010**. Remember that if you report your acres and have not planted oats, you **must** come back and report the oat acres before the deadline. Call us at (785) 628-3081 to make an appointment.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

SURE provides benefits for 2008 through 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. We are now taking SURE applications for crop year 2008. In order to qualify you must have at least a **10% production loss** on one crop of economic significance. You must also have all crops of economic significance insured with either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) excluding crops that meet the *De Minimis* exemption. If you think you had a 10% crop loss in 2008 and had the proper risk management coverage, or for more information contact our office to get the application started.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Loan terms available are seven years, ten years or twelve years depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rate is fixed for the loan term based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is initially approved. The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term and maturity. Interest rates for February are 3.25, 3.75, and 4.00% for a 7, 10, or 12 year term loan, respectively.

Commodities eligible for farm storage facility loans include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain. Other eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain, as well as hay, pulse crops - lentils, chickpea, dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, and fruits (includes nuts) and vegetables (cold storage facilities).

For more information, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

COC ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots of the County Committee Election for LAA 1 consisting of the western 1/3 of Ellis County were counted December 10, 2009 during the regular session of the County Committee meeting. Opal Flinn was elected to her third term. Arthur Armbrister was elected as the first alternate and will serve if Ms. Flinn is unable to complete her term. This year LAA 3 which is the Eastern 1/3 will conduct an election. Currently LLA 3 is represented by Randy Huser.

COC MEETINGS AND MINUTES

In an effort to provide transparency in government, we would like to remind you that the COC regular session meetings are open to the public. The meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM. Meetings are occasionally canceled or rescheduled so feel free to contact our office if you wish to confirm times. Keep in mind that any action taken for an individual producer or farm requires the COC to go into executive session, which are not open to the public, so you will be asked to excuse yourself during those times.

Also available to the general public are the meeting minutes. If you wish to view these minutes they are posted in the office.

FARM LOANS 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.

Dates to Remember

March 15	NAP coverage deadline for Dual Purpose Sorghum (FG), Forage Sorghum (FG) and other NAP crops
May 31	Final date to report small grains (due to the holiday June 1 in 2010)
June 1	DCP/ACRE signup deadline
August 1	Final date to certify spring-seeded crops, CRP, and NAP acreages.
On-going	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
On-going	Farm Storage Facility Loans
On-going	Continuous CRP Signup

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME VERIFICATION BY IRS

The 2008 Farm Bill provides that individuals and legal entities with average adjusted gross income (AGI) in excess of a specified average AGI limitation are ineligible for payments subject to that limitation. In general, the limitations are: \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI for commodity programs; \$750,000 average farm AGI for direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program or ACRE program; and \$1 million average nonfarm AGI for conservation programs. Each year participants certify to their AGI on form CCC-926 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement. However, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded in a recent report that, without an adequate verification process, USDA could not ensure payments were only being made to eligible recipients.

USDA has worked with the Internal Revenue Service to develop an electronic information exchange process strictly for the purposes of average AGI verification. This process electronically looks at certain line items on tax returns filed for the applicable three-year period; performs a series of calculations to arrive at the average amounts; and then compares these values to the average AGI limitations. USDA receives the results of these comparisons with indicators of whether the participant appears to exceed or not exceed the average AGI limitation amounts. No actual tax data will be included. USDA county office personnel will not view tax return information at any time during this process.

The Kansas State FSA office recently sent a newsletter with examples of the CCC-927 and CCC-928. Individuals are to complete the CCC-927 and Entities complete the CCC-928. To **ensure payment eligibility** you **MUST** complete this form and **return it to the IRS** at the address in the upper right hand of the form. These forms are available at our office or at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Ellis County Loan Rates for 2009:

Wheat -\$2.64 Corn - \$2.01 Milo - \$3.29/cwt
 Soybeans - \$4.78 Sunflowers - \$9.80/cwt
 Barley - \$1.80 Oats - \$1.37