



June 2010



Mitchell County News

Mitchell County USDA Service Center

Mitchell County FSA
118 West Main
Beloit, KS 67420
785-738-5172
FAX: 785-738-2768
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

County Committee
Carolyn Finney
Barry McPeak
Jane Wallace

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of Month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff

Marilyn Seehafer PT
Darnell Winkel PT
Debra Stalcup PT
Brenda Hollaway PT
Jamie Powell CED

MITCHELL COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Mitchell County Committee (COC) election for this fall will be for the western one third of the county, also known as Local Administrative Area number 3. Nominations are encouraged from minorities and underrepresented groups and must be filed by August 2.

Election ballots will be mailed from our national contractor on or about November 3 and must be returned to the Mitchell County FSA Office by December 6 or postmarked by then.

Ballots will be mailed to the address on our files; however, ballots can not be signed by a power of attorney. If you receive a ballot for someone you have power of attorney for, send it to them to sign.

There will be an election informational meeting in the Mitchell County FSA Office on July 26 at 8:00 a.m.

ACREAGE REPORTS

To collect program benefits including loan deficiency payments, loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program benefits, disaster programs and crop history, it is a requirement to report all crop acres and pastures in some cases.

The Direct and Counter Cyclical, ACRE and SURE programs require **all cropland** on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops and fallow.

Grass, corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, feed crops, and fallow acres must be reported by August 1. Crops in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) **must** be reported 15 days before haying or grazing begins.

Report your spring planted crops, as soon as possible after planting. With our tight budget, we can not send reminders. When reporting dual purpose sorghums, provide seed tickets to document variety.

If you wait to report acres until after wheat harvest or right after a rain, you will most likely have to wait in line.

FAILED CROPS/PREVENTED PLANTING

If you have a crop fail due to natural conditions, report it to FSA immediately by filing a Notice of Loss. A field visit is required before evidence of the crop is removed to allow proper acreage credit.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop. Before prevented planting credit can be approved by FSA, the same condition must have affected other producers in the area.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

We can not send producer information or maps to a third party. If FSA information is requested by a producer, we will mail it to the producer at their home address, so they can provide the information to whomever they desire. If you intend for the information or maps to be provided to a third-party, you must file a consent for release. This is an FSA document that must be used; it can't just be any written request.

EXPIRING CRP ACRES

If you have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres expiring this fall, you have several options. If you leave it in grass, you can hay or graze it after September 30. If the CRP contract was protecting base acres, those bases will be available to be enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical program next year.

Before you break it out, make sure you get a Conservation Compliance Plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. You may want to leave portions in grass such as draws or ephemeral gullies instead of building new waterways or leave other areas to grass due to low productivity. Before you spray or till, request NRCS to flag areas to be left in grass.

You can enroll small areas into continuous CRP practices such as filter strips, buffers and wild life feeding areas (SAFE).

You can enroll before the contract expires and it will take effect the day after the existing contract expires.

You must enroll before June 1 of the year following the year the contract expires or else you will have to break it out to qualify. **The SAFE practice requires the land around it to be broke before it is eligible regardless if before June 1 or not.**

You can enroll filter strips along creeks and streams and or quail borders around all edges of the field. Other practices include contour grass strips and windbreaks. Some practices are eligible for a 15 year contract and additional incentive rental payments.

All CRP contracts now have "required" management practices such as prescribed burning, inter-seeding, or light disking (haying or grazing is not allowed on continuous practices).

Enrolling expiring CRP into a continuous practice will not qualify the acreage for the Signing Incentive Payment, unless it is enrolled after June 1 of the year following the year the contract expired, but that also means it would have to be broke out first.

If you enroll the outside edges in practice CP-33, Quail buffers, you must wait one year before you could offer the balance of the field in a general sign-up.

Conservation compliance means that you are following a Conservation Compliance Plan on all highly erodible acres you have an interest in. This includes expired CRP acres.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP

A Conservation Reserve Program general signup is expected this summer, but the dates have not been set yet. Watch for a Kansas State FSA newsletter.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM OFFICE DAYS

The FLP staff has established a monthly office day at the Mitchell County FSA office on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Farm loan programs include loans for beginning farmers, farm operating loans, farm ownership loans and youth loans.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP is a disaster program for orchard and nursery losses due to natural disasters. The final date to apply for losses in 2008, 2009 and through May 7, 2010 is July 16, 2010. Losses after May 7 must be applied for within 90 days of the loss.

TRANSITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

TIP offers a two year extension of their expiring or expired CRP annual payment. Retiring CRP participants must sell or have a long term lease to a non-family member beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer.

2010 CROP Loans

The 2010 loan rates for Mitchell County are Wheat - \$2.77/bu., Corn - \$1.90/bu., Sorghum – \$3.34 /cwt, Soybeans - \$4.87/bu., and Sunflowers - \$10.34 /cwt.

To be eligible for a farm stored grain loan, the bins can not be over filled and there must be enough headroom to walk around the inside of the bin and probe it. Bins must be numbered and the grain must be at or below acceptable moisture levels. Bins must also have permanent ladders attached inside and outside.

FRUIT OR VEGETABLE PLANTINGS

Fruit or vegetable crops planted on DCP or ACRE contract acres can be a serious violation. Before planting sweet corn, turnips, pumpkins, melons or any other crop that is considered a vegetable or fruit, check to see if it will affect program participation. Planting turnips or radishes, even in a mix for a cover crop can also be considered a violation. If an inspection fee is paid to verify that the crop is not harvested for the vegetable crop, the farm can still participate in the program.

CONSENT FORMS TO IRS

To be eligible for program benefits, payees must be in compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

The Farm Bill requires a review to be sure payments are not issued to ineligible producers. Instead of producers bringing in tax returns or financial records, producers will sign a consent form and IRS will do the review.

The deadline to submit the forms to IRS is June 15, 2010. Failure to submit forms could result in refunding payments issued for 2009 and /or 2010.

Power of attorney cannot be used to sign the forms FSA-927 or FSA-928; it must be the same signature as on the tax return.

Reminders	
	All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known.
	Contact FSA before breaking land, removing tree areas, removing field boundaries removing farm stored loan grain or planting any crop that might be a fruit or vegetable on contract acreage.
	Check your CRP Plan of operations and remember to get food plots planted if they are in your plan.
	Weeds/trees must be controlled on CRP acres.
June 11	NRCS CSP sign up deadline
April 15 to July 16	Kansas primary nesting season on CRP acres
July 5	Office Closed
July 31	Spring planted crops reported
Continues	SURE Disaster signup
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

WEBSITES

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



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