



Osborne County Farm Service Agency

1117 W Hwy 24; Osborne, KS 67473

Phone: 785-346-2128 Fax: 785-346-2057 February 2010

E-mail: Karen.mccune@ks.usda.gov Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



County Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month @ 12:30 P.M. November through May and @ 8:30 A.M. June through October. Members are: James Nichols, Kenneth Lee, Jhan LaRosh and Imogene Thornburg, Advisor.

Signup and Certification

Signup for 2010 DCP and ACRE has begun and runs through June 1, 2010. Advance direct payments of 22% are available. New Adjusted Gross Income certifications are required each year and must be completed before payments can be issued.

Certification can be completed at the same time as enrollment. The final date to certify small grains is May 31, 2010, or 15 days prior to haying or grazing. Please contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment to complete these tasks.

NAP Deadlines

March 15 is the deadline to purchase NAP coverage for sorghum forage for hay for the 2010 crop year. NAP coverage is available at the FSA office for a \$250 administrative fee. Producers will need to contact their RMA insurance company to purchase silage coverage.

April 15 is the final date for producers who purchased NAP insurance for 2010 to certify their alfalfa, pasture, prairie and brome hay acreages.

2009 Policyholders are required to provide acceptable and verifiable production evidence of their crops by April 15. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the disapproval of any applications for disaster benefits. It will also have adverse implications for future year approved yield calculations.

SURE

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) has begun for crop production losses for the 2008 crop year.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either having a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops.

Producers must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under an USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation or suffer a 50 percent production loss on the farm due to a natural disaster. Osborne County was a contiguous county for 2008.

Loans for Beginning Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- ✓ Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- ✓ Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- ✓ Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- ✓ Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements.

Additional program information for beginning & non-beginning farmers, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center or by contacting the Russell FSA office at 785-483-5618. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

The ACRE Option

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. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's 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.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.



Livestock Indemnity Program

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather.

Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent. The final date to submit an Application for Payment is Jan. 30 of the following year.

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers are reminded that planting fruits and vegetables on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE is a compliance violation unless they meet the following exemption rules:

- Those meeting the definition of a home garden.
- FAV's planted & reported with an intended use of green manure or forage & producer pays a fee for a field visit to verify the crop has not been harvested as FAV. This includes those planted as a cover crop with the intention to leave standing.
- Mung beans & pulse crops including Austrian, green, yellow & Umatilla peas, lentils, & chickpeas are exempted.

Communication with the FSA office is the best way to avoid a violation that could affect program benefits. Please contact the office for additional clarification before planting fruits and vegetables.

Election Results



Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent COC election. The results of the election were as follows:

Jhan LaRosh – 74 votes
 Kendall Schultze – 72 votes

Jhan began his term January 1st. Kendall will serve as his alternate. Thank you to out-going member Alan Beisner for serving the producers of Osborne County in this capacity.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews



Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The Russell FSA office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Help Available for Grain Storage

The Farm Stored Facility Loan Program is available to help producers meet their grain storage needs. Under this program USDA makes loans to participants to purchase and construct new storage structures for farm products. It has been expanded to include hay sheds, silage pits, fruit and vegetables cold storage facilities and other farm storage structures. The maximum loan amount has increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The interest rates for loans approved in January were 2.875% for a 7 year loan, 3.375% for 10 year, and 3.75% on 12 year loans. The principle amount must exceed \$100,000 to be eligible for the 10 year term and \$250,000 for a 12 year term. USDA requires a 15% down payment for the program.

Participating producers will be required to carry crop insurance or NAP on all crops of economic significance, insure the bin for physical damage, and pay their real estate taxes. Interested producers will need to provide a copy of a current cash flow, and balance sheet, and a bid or estimate for the bins to be constructed. For loans over \$50,000, USDA will seek a first position lien on enough real estate to secure the loan. If you are interested in this program please contact the county office.

Dates to Remember	
Mar 15	Final date to purchase NAP for 2010 sorghum forage.
Mar 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for wheat, oats, and barley.
May 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for corn, milo, and soybeans.
May 31	Final date to report small grain crops.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.