



Rooks County FSA Office
617 S Cedar
Stockton, KS 67669-0503
Phone: (785) 425-6302
Fax: (785) 425-6308

HOURS: Monday – Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

County Committee Members

James Eichman, Chairman
Lois Ann Gasper, Vice Chairperson
Steve Cook, Member
Everett McKenna, Advisor
 The Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of each month

Office Staff: James Adams, CED
Reesa Brown, PT
Betty Bedore, PT
Kacey Johnston, PT

November 2009

SUPPLEMENTAL DIASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The new Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) created the following new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance":

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

SURE will cover crop production losses, LFP will cover grazing loss, and LIP will cover livestock death due to an eligible disaster.

To be eligible for ELAP, LFP, SURE, and TAP, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance on ALL insurable crops and/or Noninsurance Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for ALL non-insurable crops. (Non-insurable crops include all forage crops such as small grass areas or waterways for hay). LIP is exempt and does not require CAT or NAP coverage for eligibility.

To qualify for SURE the county must have a Secretarial Disaster Designation (or be contiguous to a county that does) or a producer will qualify if they have more than a 50% production loss on their entire farm. A farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

We currently have no software for the Sure disaster program. National training has been scheduled for October, 2009. Hopefully, software will follow shortly. Watch your local newspapers for when disaster signup will begin.

Payment Eligibility Requirements

Program payments that require eligibility determinations prior to payments include the Direct and Countercyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency Payments, Marketing loan Gains, Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program, and Disaster Assistance Programs. Certain eligibility requirements apply to some programs and not others.

No program benefits can be afforded any producer until form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review and supporting documentation have been provided and County Committee determinations made. The Farm Operating Plan does not need to be filed annually. However, producers are required to notify the County Office of any Changes in the farming operation which would affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, or foreign person determination. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to the following:

- Contract shares that may reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or a change from share rent to cash rent, modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement.
- The size of a producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm that may affect the application of a cropland factor.
- The structure of a farming operation, including any change in the member's share.

- Contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management.
- The acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-902 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.
- An increase in income that may affect the 3-year average for the determination of average adjusted gross income or other change that affects eligibility under the average adjusted income limitation.

By statute, entities earning program benefits subject to a payment limitation must provide to the County Committee the names, addresses, and ID numbers of the entities' members. Signature authority is required for all entities.

Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELCS) and Wetland Certification (WC), must also be on file and a county committee determination made prior to receiving benefits for most programs.

A person or entity can earn \$40,000 per year in Direct payments, \$65,000 in Counter Cyclical payments, \$50,000 under the Conservation Reserve program, and \$100,000 under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. An individual or entity cannot be eligible to receive certain payments and benefits if the average adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$500,000 in non-farm income. In addition, to be eligible for direct payments the AGI farm income can not exceed \$750,000. For conservation programs the AGI threshold is \$1 million of non-farm income unless 66.66% of the AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry.

Payment limitations and payment eligibility determinations may be initiated by the County Committee or requested by the producer. All payment limitations and eligibility determinations, as well as AGI certifications, are subject to spot check. A "not actively engaged in farming" determination may result in the loss or denial of all program benefits and request for repayment of USDA payments or loans

Noncompliance with the adjusted gross income provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limits or by failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligible for all program benefits subject to the adjusted gross income provisions. Program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible individual or entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average adjusted gross income limitation.

FSA County Committee Election

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 is the area up for election this year. This area consists of the following Townships: Plainville, Paradise, Twin Mound, Corning, and from P Rd south in Hobart, Greenfield and Medicine. Nomination period starts June 15, 2009 and ends on August 3, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to those eligible voters in LAA-2 on November 6, 2009. Ballots must be returned to the Rooks County FSA Office by December 7, 2009. Ballots will be counted on December 9, 2009 and the newly elected member takes office on January 1, 2009.

TIMELY REPORT PREVENTED PLANTING

Producers must report prevented planted acres within 15 calendar days after the crop's final planting date and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss.



NAP

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fee by the application closing date. You must have NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops to be eligible for supplemental disaster assistance programs. The final date to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for alfalfa, all grasses, clover, mixed forage, and oats spring is December 1, 2009.

The final date to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts is March 15, 2010.

Service fees are: \$250.00 per crop
\$750.00 per County
\$1875.00 per producer for all counties

For those producers that have NAP coverage for FY 2009, you need to turn in your production as soon as possible.

Foreign Investors Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U. S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Here are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211's on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan Documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

REPORT FSA FARM RECORD CHANGES

Report record changes such as the sale of any acreage, operator change (for either fall or spring crops), estate or other entity formation or dissolution now. All changes must be reported to the county office within 30 days of the change.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 thru June 1, 2009, Signup for 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and Average Crop Revenue Election Program

October 20, 2009, Final planting date for wheat and barley.

November 5, 2009, Final planting date for triticale.

November 11, 2009, Office closed for Veterans Day.

November 26, 2009, Office closed for Thanksgiving.

December 1, 2009, Application closing date for all grasses and alfalfa for NAP coverage.

December 25, 2009, Office closed for Christmas Day.

On- GOING Programs

Farm Storage Facility Loans- On-Going

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program- On-Going

Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans- On-Going

Rural Youth Loans (10-20 yr old)

Beginning Farmer & Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) Farm Loans

Beginning Farmer & SDA Down Payment Loans

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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