



# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 Roger Barta Way  
Smith Center, KS 66967

COUNTY COMMITTEE:  
Dianna Rice  
Robert Koops,  
Darin Hawkins,

Cary J. Tucker  
County Executive Director

## FROM THE HEART OF THE USA

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

January 2010

### SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The SURE signup began January 4, 2010. Producers with significant production losses for crop year 2008 may be eligible for SURE payments. SURE payments are based on production losses on a producer's "farm". "Farm" for SURE is defined as all crops in which a producer has an interest nationwide. To receive 2008 SURE payments the producer must have had all eligible crops insured through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or Federal Crop Insurance. Two exceptions to this rule are forage crops with a value less than \$9091 and forage crops with a value of less than 5 percent of the total value of all crops raised on the farm.

The SURE program has two eligibility criteria. The first is that the producer suffers at least a 50 percent production loss of all crops on the farm. The other is that the producer has suffered at least a 10 percent loss on one crop and the county has received a Secretarial Disaster designation. Smith County has received a Secretarial Disaster designation for the 2008 crop year.

SURE payments are based on 60 percent of the difference between the farm's SURE guarantee and the total farm revenue. The SURE guarantee is based on Federal Crop Insurance and NAP coverage on the farm.

SURE program benefits will be available through the 2011 crop year. Producers must purchase NAP and Federal Crop Insurance on all eligible crops to receive SURE payments. Grazing crops losses are covered under the Livestock feed Program (LFP). NAP coverage must be purchased to receive potential LFP payments.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) pays for livestock death losses caused by extreme weather events. Producers must maintain a reliable and verifiable inventory of all livestock. ELAP covers honey bee, fish and other grazing losses not covered by LFP. NAP coverage is required for ELAP benefits.

### Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons (Minorities and Women)

Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

For more information contact the Smith County FSA office.

### FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, (AFIDA), requires foreign persons, including corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, associations or like entities who acquire, transfer or hold interests in Ag land, to report these holdings and changes to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports must be submitted within 90 days of the date the land is bought, sold or transferred. Forms for reporting are available at any FSA office. Failure to timely file an accurate report may result in a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

### FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for new grain storage and in some cases added safety features and increased capacity of existing storage. These 7-12 year fixed rate loans can be made up to \$500,000. Hay and renewable biomass storage structures loans are also now available.

| February 2010 Approved FSFL Loan Interest Rates |                         |                         |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7-year up to \$50,000                           | 10-year up to \$250,000 | 12-year up to \$500,000 |
| 2.875 Interest Rate                             | 3.375 Interest Rate     | 3.75 Interest rate      |

### SPECIAL 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 at 785-282-3832, extension 106 and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

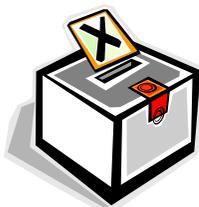
**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINES**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| September 1 | Seeded Small Grains for Grazing (wheat, rye, Triticale)   |
| December 1  | Alfalfa, Grasses for Forage or Grazing, Honey, Oats for Forage, Mixed Forage (alfalfa/grass mix)  |
| March 15    | Millet, Sorghum (cane) for Forage (sorghum silage must be insured by Federal Crop Insurance), other spring planted forage crops except oats |

Report all forage crop production losses within 15 days of the occurrence. Producers must keep a “contemporaneous diary” giving the date of harvest and number of bales and a representative number of scale tickets for each type of forage. Maintain all records for the current year and the immediate three past years for spot check purposes. NAP coverage is required for SAFE, LFP, and ELAP benefits.

**COUNTY OFFICE COMMITTEE (COC)  
 ELECTION**

Congratulations to Dianna Rice on being elected to the COC for Local Administrative Area (LAA) one. LAA one covers primarily the western two tiers of Townships, north to south. Excellent voter participation was greatly appreciated as well as the candidate’s willingness to serve on this most important committee. The COC is your unique grass roots link to the USDA. The Smith County COC has actively sought change to better represent its constituency and will continue to do so in the future. FSA is greatly appreciative of Mary Arment’s service on the COC the last six years.



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P** **2010 Farm Program (DCP) Signup**  
 Signup has begun. Because some new eligibility forms must be completed you will be sent an appointment. The deadline to sign up is June 1, 2010. All signatures must be returned to the FSA office by June 1. There are no late filed provisions for this signup. We will be taking wheat acreage reports at the same time as DCP signup. The wheat, barley and oats acreage report deadline is June 1. A minimum \$46.00 field inspection fee will assessed for late filed acreage reports.



**SODBUSTING PURCHASED LAND, NEWLY RENTED ACREAGE AND EXPIRED CRP**

Prior to sodbusting **any** acreage including expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and before planting a crop on newly purchased or rented acreage, check the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). Planting a crop on sodbusted acreage or on newly acquired land that does not have a fully implemented CPO will cause the loss of all USDA benefits on all acreage owned and operated. Form AD-1026 must be approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prior to breaking any acreage or planting a crop on acreage that does not have a completed CPO.

**REPORT FARM RECORD CHANGES**

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land (including pasture), make sure you report the changes to the FSA within 30 days of the record change. Do not wait until DCP signup. Failure to report record changes within 30 days may cause the loss of all FSA benefits. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or signed contract for sale and the sales agreement. Ensure the sales agreement addresses all CRP and other FSA payment disposition. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land in which you have an interest can lead to USDA program ineligibility.