



January 2010



Dickinson County News

DICKINSON COUNTY USDA SERVICE CENTER

Dickinson County FSA
328 NE 14th Street
Abilene KS 67410
(785) 263-1351
(785) 263-1174 FAX
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Mark Bethe
Donneta Felbush
Annette Caldwell

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 9:00 am.

Office Staff:
Ellen Alvarez, PT
Tonya Askew, PT
Sandy Johnson, PT
Jamie Millard, PT
Michele Snowball, PT
Becky Walker, PT

Sara Morey, CED

Field Staff:
Les Gray
Bob Meyer



Protecting FSA Customer Privacy:

Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), which took effect on May 22, 2008, prohibits release of information provided to FSA by an agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land in order to participate in a FSA program. In addition, it also prohibits release of information concerning the agricultural operation (including production and marketing of agricultural commodities and livestock), farming or conservation practices, or the land itself. Program participants who intend for their personal records or information to be released to a third-party must consent to release of the specific information, in writing.

FSA Election Results:

The recent County Committee Election resulted in Donneta Felbush being re-elected to the COC in LAA 2, consisting of the following townships: Lincoln, Grant, Center, Rinehart, Garfield, Newbern, Logan, and Liberty.

Of 1318 eligible votes the county office received 181 resulting in 14% of the votes being returned. Not all of the 181 votes were valid; 4 were invalid and 12 were spoiled resulting in a total of 165 valid votes.

The County Committee (COC) administers FSA Programs at the county level. The 2010 COC will be comprised of Mark Bethe, Annette Caldwell, and Donneta Felbush. The COC meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs:

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

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

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and /or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Producers, who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term “farm” means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.



2010 DCP Signup:

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. Most of the contracts were mailed out in December, if you have not received your contract and do not know of any changes on your farm, please contact the office at 785-263-1351.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE):

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 Program guarantee and the Actual State Revenue times the ratio of the farm’s yield divided by the State expected yield.

Farms participating in ACRE will have their Direct Program payment reduced by 20% and the marketing assistance loan rates will be reduced by 30%.

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 will be in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Producers on participating ACRE Program farms must annually report acreage and production to FSA. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility.

The deadline to make an ACRE election for crop year 2010 is June 1, 2010. This deadline is mandatory for all participants; USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Acreage Certification to Begin:

As with past years, we will be sending postcards to operators informing them of their certification appointment. It is vital that all acreages intended to be utilized be certified on form FSA -578. Look for your postcard soon, the deadline for small grains is May 31st.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION:

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with in 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.



Farm Reconstitutions:

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* (recon) is necessary. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1st.

Methods used for recons include:

Estate Method – the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

Designation of Landowner Method – may be used when part of the farm is sold or ownership is transferred; and entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons; farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons; part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; a tract is sold to 2 or more persons; tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least 3 years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

DCP Cropland Method – the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

Default Method – the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the recon is initiated in the system.

Dickinson County producers are serviced by the Farm Loan Programs office located in the Saline County USDA Service Center in Salina, Kansas, phone number 785-825-8269.

| Dickinson County Loan Rates Crop Year 2009 | |
|---|-------------|
| Wheat | \$ 2.71/bu |
| Corn | \$ 2.02/bu |
| Grain Sorghum | \$ 3.31/cwt |
| Barley | \$ 1.75/bu |
| Oats | \$ 1.37/bu |
| Soybeans | \$ 4.90/bu |

Women Managing the Farm Conference:

Another year of wonderful keynote speakers, informative breakout sessions and great networking is planned for the 2010 Women Managing the Farm Conference on February 5-6, 2010 at Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Kansas. Watch for more information at www.togpartners.com/wmf.

Dates to Remember:

January 30 – Final Date to File Notice of Loss and Application for payment under LIP for losses after July 14, 2009.

January 31 – Final Date to Apply for 2009 LDP on wool, mohair or unshorn pelts.

May 31 – Final Date to Certify Small Grains

On-going – Continuous CRP, Farm Loans

Websites:

FSA – www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA – www.fsa.usds.gov/ks
 USDA – www.usda.gov
 Level 2 eAuth Account – www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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