



# Lincoln County FSA News



FEBRUARY 2010

**Lincoln County FSA**  
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#### **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM

#### **Lincoln County FSA Committee**

Nick Biggs, Chairperson  
Damon Vonada, Vice-Chairperson  
Connie Gebhart, Regular Member  
Marylyn Bell, Advisor  
-Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of month-  
10:00 a.m. Nov.-Apr; 9:00 a.m. May-Oct.

#### **DCP & ACRE Updates**

Farms can be enrolled in the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) option through JUNE 1, 2010. Advance payments can be requested at 22 percent of the total “direct” amount. The ACRE option is intended to provide a safety net for crop revenue shortfall due to price and/or production declines at the state and farm level. Both state and farm “triggers” must be met before ACRE payments are made. To participate in ACRE, producers give up counter-cyclical payments and 20% of the “direct” DCP payment, and accept a 30% reduction in commodity loan rates. Once a farm is enrolled in ACRE, it remains through 2012.

#### **Foreign Land Ownership**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.

#### **Women in Ag Meeting – March 23**

Women with farming interests (their own or with a spouse, other family member, or entity) are invited to attend a free dinner meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, MARCH 23, 2010, in the banquet room of the Finch Theatre in Lincoln, KS. Several speakers will have short presentations about organizing your important papers, the purpose of durable and medical power-of-attorneys, wills, etc, and other useful topics. Because space is limited, reservations should be made immediately by calling the Conservation District at (785) 524-4482 or e-mailing [patricia.winters@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:patricia.winters@ks.nacdnet.net)

#### **Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Verification**

Producers should have recently received a Kansas FSA State Newsletter noting a new requirement to file “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information” with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to remain eligible for USDA payments. Beginning with the 2009 farm programs, new average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were implemented to qualify for most federal farm program payments. Each year, all persons and legal entities requesting program payments (directly or indirectly) must complete CCC-926 forms certifying that a previous three-year average AGI does not exceed the following levels: (1) if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000 a person or entity shall not be eligible for all commodity, price support, or disaster assistance programs; (2) if the farm AGI exceeds \$750,000 a person or entity shall not be eligible for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program; and (3) if non-farm AGI exceeds \$1,000,000 a person or entity shall not be eligible for all conservation programs, unless two-thirds or more of the average AGI was derived from activities related to farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

Now, USDA and IRS have developed an electronic information exchange process strictly for the purpose of average AGI verification. Using this process, no actual tax data will be included, but cases that appear to exceed the average AGI levels will be identified and examined closer to ensure compliance. However, IRS is requiring written consent from individuals and entities to provide USDA verification of the average AGI. Thus, two new forms were created (CCC-927 for individuals and CCC-928 for entities), which will be required to be completed by every person and/or their entities receiving farm program payments and sent directly to IRS. The deadline to complete the forms is JUNE 15, 2010, and IRS will not accept the power-of-attorney signatures on file for USDA. Failure to provide the written consent will require the refund of program payments received in 2009 and/or 2010 programs which have already been paid.

Both the CCC-927 and CCC-928 forms are available at your local FSA office. Individuals and entities receiving the State and this newsletter needs to be responsible for ensuring ALL associated individuals, partners, stockholders, etc., fully complete appropriate forms (most will check both boxes for 2009 and 2010) and timely mail the forms directly to the IRS address on the form. Because individuals and entities will not be returning the forms to FSA offices, there will be no way of tracking the forms, and we are not allowed to forward them on to IRS. Contact our office for questions regarding AGI or if more CCC-927 or CCC-928 forms are needed.

#### **Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program**

A signup period for the SURE program began on JANUARY 4, 2010, for crop losses in 2008. SURE is intended to provide assistance to eligible producers on “farms” that have incurred significant revenue losses due to crop production and/or quality problems related to adverse weather. A “farm”, for SURE purposes, refers to all acreage nationwide that is planted to crops for commercial use, except grazing. For qualifying producers, 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 Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. If you had severe 2008 crop losses, contact the FSA office.

**Farm Reconstitutions Deadline June 1**

A farm unit, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts of land that have the same owner and same operator. The sale of a specific tract within a farm would be an instance that FSA would likely require a farm reconstitution to divide the farm. Farm reconstitutions could also involve combining tracts to create new farms. In either case, farm reconstitutions must be requested by JUNE 1.

**FSA County Committee Election Results**

The last FSA Committee election was held by mail ballot from November 6 through December 7, 2009, to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of the county. Connie Gebhart was elected for a three-year term with 77 votes, and Timmothy Lyne was elected as first alternate with 60 votes. We appreciate those producers who voted (24% return for Area #3) and the candidates for their willingness to serve the farmers and ranchers in their area. Also, a special THANK YOU to Dale Rosebrook for his three years on the FSA County Committee, and Marylyn Bell for her nine years service as Committee Advisor.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

**--PRESCRIBED BURNS:** Now is the time for CRP participants to prepare for prescribed burns. Some producers must burn to meet contract responsibilities, and others want to burn CRP to control volunteer trees or for other reasons. Prescribed burns on CRP acres are permitted from FEBRUARY 1 through APRIL 14, and some cost-share funds may be possible for "optional" burns if requested in advance at the FSA office. Prescribed burns with cost-share make the acreage ineligible for "managed" haying or grazing during the year of the burn. Burning CRP is prohibited from APRIL 15 through JULY 15 since it is the primary nesting period for upland birds.

**--NEW CRP OFFERS:** A "general" CRP signup is not anticipated at least until late summer. However, CRP signup is on-going for "continuous" practices such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), contour and terrace grass strips, windbreaks, and quail buffers. Practice CP38E is available for "official" fields of five acres or less that may be difficult to farm with large equipment. In addition, CP38E allows flexibility to eliminate "point rows", creating "blocks" of wildlife habitat. Many of the CRP continuous practices offer a \$100 per acre signing incentive up front, and higher cost-share and annual rental payments. Limited acreage allocations apply to some practices.

**--NEW SEEDINGS:** Producers with new CRP acreage are urged to timely establish required cover crops and/or grass plantings. If an acceptable cover crop has been approved, native grass seeding can begin as soon as possible and continue through MAY 15, 2010. CRP participants should contact NRCS or FSA personnel about seeding information.

**2010-Crop Acreage Reports due June 1**

JUNE 1, 2010, is the final date to timely file acreage reports for 2010-crop wheat, **oats**, and barley. Most farm operators have already reported their wheat acres, and we encourage others to report by FEBRUARY 26, if possible. FSA measurement services using GPS equipment are available at established costs if you are unsure of your acreage.

**2009-Crop Loan Deadlines**

The following deadlines apply for commodity loans:  
MARCH 31: Wheat, Oats, and Barley.  
JUNE 1: Corn, Milo, Soybeans, and Sunflowers.

**Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders**

The last sales closing date for 2010 NAP coverage is MARCH 15, which includes sorghum forage and numerous fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The cost is now \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per county or \$1875 for multi-county interests. Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that good record keeping and disaster reporting is required.

**CCC-1099G Payment Information**

Producers should have received their 2009 farm program payment information on form CCC-1099G by February 1. Please note that **refunds** no longer appear on form CCC-1099G. Contact the FSA office if you have questions.

**Tree and Shrub Seedlings Available**

Tree/shrub plantings can be used for home, field, or livestock windbreaks, living snow fences, bird/wildlife habitats, marking property lines, and for barriers to noise or ugly views. The Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) and Kansas Forest Service (KFS) are taking seedling orders now, and shipping begins in mid-March. More than 30 species are available that have been selected for hardiness in the central plains. Contact the LCCD at 785-524-4482 to obtain more information.

**Report Failed and Prevented Planting to FSA**

Crop acreage that fails or is significantly damaged by adverse weather or related conditions should be reported to FSA within 15 days of the disaster event, or when the loss is apparent, and definitely before any failed crop is grazed, hayed, silaged, destroyed or abandoned. And, when weather does not permit crops from being timely planted, "prevented planting" provisions may apply. Any prevented planting acreage must be reported within 15 days from the final planting dates set for crop insurance or NAP (for non-insurable crops). Late-filing fees must be charged for field inspections if the reporting deadlines are past.

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

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