



**FEBRUARY 2010**

## ***Ottawa County FSA News***

### **Ottawa County FSA Office**

877 Laurel.  
Minneapolis, KS 67467  
(785)392-3393  
(785)392-3342 – FAX

### **Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### **County Committee**

Ken Berry, Chairperson  
Vera Freeman, Vice-Chairperson  
Sean Myers, Member

Mtg. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month

### **County Executive Director**

David Pounds

### **Staff**

Valerie Crum, Renda Brown,  
Angela Haney

### **Internet web sites**

USDA-[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
FSA Forms-[www.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov)  
NRCS-[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **COC ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to **SEAN MYERS** on being elected to the Ottawa County Committee (COC) for a 3 year term. FSA appreciates those who serve on the COC and for those who voted on the committee candidates.

### **FOREIGN INVESTOR 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.

### **2010 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION**

The final date to report your acreages of **wheat, barley, and oats** is **June 1, 2010**. The final date to report your acreages of **corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, and other feed crops** is **August 1, 2010**. We are taking acreage reports at this time so call and make your appointment 785-392-3393.

**NAP** coverage producers are to be aware that feed crops are required to have the acreage reported 15 days prior to the crop being harvested (alfalfa - May 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **CRP EARLY PREPARATION**

Beginning July 1 of the final year of the CRP-1 (contract), CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before the expiration to prepare a seedbed for "fall" seeded crops. Producers would need to file a request for early destruction and follow an approved conservation plan. No payment reduction will be assessed for the early destruction. The fall seeded crop may be planted prior to October 1.

Producers will be in violation of CRP-1 if the approved participant fails to plant a fall seeded crop in a normal manner, and may result in a refund of CRP annual rental payment, plus interest and liquidated damages

Beginning July 15 CRP participants are permitted to apply "chemicals" for destruction of the CRP cover for "spring" seeded crops; otherwise early destruction of the CRP cover by any other means is not permitted prior to the end of the CRP contract period.

Remember to file a request for early destruction.

### **CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE**

Numerous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts in Kansas will expire between 2010 and 2013. These contract holders may choose to return their acres back into crop production or grazing land.

To maintain the conservation benefits achieved in the CRP, FSA encourages agricultural producers to consider keeping some or all of their environmentally sensitive acreage under contract. While re-enrollment options under general signup are limited, landowners may enroll their environmentally sensitive acres into continuous CRP signup at any time. Continuous CRP signup contracts are 10-15 years long and pay an enhanced rental rate.

Continuous CRP practices include: Living snow fence, riparian forest buffers, filter strips, grass waterways and wildlife habitat buffers. All of these provide important environmental benefits such as; promoting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

FSA accepts continuous CRP signup contracts automatically as long as certain criterion is met.

### **CRP MAINTENANCE**

Producers must control noxious weeds including musk thistle and Sericea Lespedeza (which is showing up more recently in grass stands in our area) from their CRP acres. If trees were not in the initial planting; they also need to be removed. There should not be any roads, sheds, homes, machinery, hay etc ... on CRP acres.

Failure to maintain or findings of any of the above can lead to penalties plus interest and possible termination of the contract.

Producers putting partial fields into CRP buffer areas need to remember they need to mark their borders with permanent markings (Steel post, fence, fiberglass posts or pipes). This will keep from encroaching on the border areas. Keep TREES out of these borders also. In doing some fall inspections we have noticed that trees are starting to encroach on these acres.

### **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)**

LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract owners for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires and extreme heat/cold. Normal mortality rates are Adult Beef Cows 1.1%, Beef animals less than 400# 2.7%. Verifiable evidence of each animal's death is required. There are no NAP or FCIC requirements for eligibility under LIP.

Producers have until January 30, 2010 to file on 2009 losses. Deaths occurring January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 must file a notice of loss within 30 days after death is apparent and file an application for payment by January 30, 2011. Producers must file notice of animal loss as they may occur throughout the year. If normal mortality is exceeded at the end of the year an application for payment is to be completed.

## Reminders

### FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities. These are seven year loans and are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$500,000 for each loan.

### RECORD CHANGES

If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes to FSA as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest may lead to potential program ineligibility and damages.

### KANSAS AGRABILITY PROJECT

Do you need special accommodations on your farm or ranch because of an injury, illness or disability? Contact the Kansas Arability Project for an assessment of your worksite. Their goal is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, farm families, and farm workers who have disabilities, so they can continue to work and thrive in their agricultural career. Contact them at 1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648).

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.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) Program

SURE provides benefits for 2008 -2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. This replaces the old AD HOC crop disaster programs. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or quality losses. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60% 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 revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer has an interest nationwide.

To be eligible for SURE triggers must be met:

1. A portion of the farm must be located in or contiguous to a county that has had a USDA SECRETARIAL DECLARATION. Then you must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance.  
OR
2. The whole farms actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Producers must have also obtained insurance coverage on all crops of economic significance with FCIC or FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year the loss occurred. **Economic Significance is defined as any crop that will account for at least 5% or more of the expected revenue for a producer's entire farm revenue. This is a producer's total interest in all farms in all counties he farms in.** SURE is not required on grass for grazing acreage.

**Signup** for 2008 SURE began on January 4, 2010 with no ending date announced at this time. **Ottawa County was not a Secretarial Designated county nor are we contiguous to one.**

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The application closing date for the following crops is March 15, 2010: vegetables (sweet corn, carrots, etc), melons, cotton, pumpkins, sesame, safflower, squash, walnuts, pecans, chestnuts, Sorghum Forage (cane), millet and turnips (GZ).

The administrative fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

Producers must obtain NAP coverage on non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on insurable crops to remain eligible for the supplemental disaster assistance programs (SURE).

### DCP and ACRE Signup

The 2010 DCP and ACRE Program Signup runs through June 1, 2010. Producers signing up can get their advance payment of 22% and will also be updating eligibility forms and reporting all planted acres on the farm at this time. Producers are encouraged to give our office a call (785-392-3393) to schedule an appointment to complete this process before you get into spring field work.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

The CCC-927 (individual) and CCC-928 (entity) forms will be provided to producers who earned payments and will be required to be filled out, signed and returned by **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** to the **Internal Revenue Service - USDA, P. O. Box 24033, Fresno, CA 93779**. **As a producer signs their own tax return, they must sign the 927 and 928, not a POA.** Do not turn these forms into the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Failure to fill out and return the appropriate form may require refund of your 2009 and/or 2010 payments.