



January 2010

# Washington County FSA News

**Washington County FSA**  
705 B Street  
Washington, KS 66968  
(785) 325-2253  
(785) 325-2657 – FAX

## Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

Jim Burton, Chairperson  
Dolores Jueneman, Vice-Chairperson  
Tim Harlan, Regular Member  
Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

## Staff

Cindy Zimmerman, FLM  
Brandy Weber, FLO  
Midge Miller, PT  
Marilyn Laflen, PT  
Brenda Heck, PT  
Dawn Bargman, PT  
Debbie Voelker, PT  
Dianne Garber, PT  
Linda Beikmann, PT  
Rob Larkin, CED

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 1** – Final date to file notice of loss and application for payment under Livestock Indemnity Program for losses after July 14, 2009.

**February 1** – Final date to request a Loan or Loan Deficiency Payments on 2009 wool, mohair or unshorn pelts.

**March 31** – Final day to request a 2009 crop Marketing Assistance Loan on Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Honey

**May 31** - Final day to request a 2009 crop Marketing Assistance Loan on Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans, and Sunflowers

**June 1** – Final day to enroll into the 2010 DCP/ACRE Program.

## ELECTION RESULTS

During the December Washington County FSA Committee meeting, ballots were counted from last fall's County Committee election in Local Administrative Area # 2. Tim Harlan was the only candidate listed on the ballot. Tim received 74 votes and Eileen Hansen received 1 write-in vote.

Congratulations to Tim on his election to the committee. Tim will start his position as a County Committee member during January of 2010.

Thanks to Eileen Hansen who served as a County Committee Member from 2000 though 2009. Her service to the producers of Washington County and the staff of the Washington County FSA Office is greatly appreciated.

## ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports are required for most of the programs offered through the Farm Service Agency. The reports are used for determining program eligibility as well as calculating program benefits. The 2010 crop acreage reporting deadlines are:

- May 31, 2010, for Wheat, Barley, and Oats
- August 2, 2010, for Alfalfa, Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans, Sunflowers, CRP, and Grasses

For producers that have purchased Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage the acreage reporting deadlines are:

- For seeded small grain forage, reports must be filed by the earlier of the insurance reporting date for the crop or within 15 days of using the crop for forage.
- Honey is January 2 for the insuring crop year.
- Forage reports must be filed 15 days before the onset of harvest or grazing.

For an acreage reporting appointment please call the county office.

## FARM PROGRAM SIGNUP

For 2010, producers again have the option to enroll into the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. **June 1, 2010**, is the final date for producers to enroll into these programs. This includes returning all required signatures.

For producers who enroll into the ACRE program for the first time, an ACRE election as well as an ACRE contract must be completed. Once an ACRE election is completed on a farm, the election is considered irrevocable and the farm will be considered an ACRE farm throughout the duration of this farm program (2012).

For ACRE farms, actual farm yields must be reported by the subsequent crop year's acreage reporting deadline. For farms enrolled in ACRE for the 2009 program year, these deadlines are listed in the acreage reporting section on this newsletter.

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

## BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

## LIVESTOCK DEATHS

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at the Washington County FSA Office.

Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. National payment rates are found on the LIP Fact Sheet at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent. The final date to submit an Application for Payment is Jan. 30 of the following year.

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## RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien

- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

## MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

The final availability dates for 2009 crop loans are:

**February 1, 2010** – Mohair, Peanuts, Unshorn Pelts, Wool

**March 31, 2010**– Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, Sesame Seed

**May 31, 2010**– Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seed