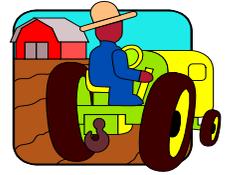




**Atchison County**  
FSA Office  
605 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Effingham, KS 66023  
Phone: 913-833-5460  
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County Committee Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

# USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



**February/March 2010**

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Farm Programs:  
Diane Kiehl, Jayne Wehking, Cindy  
Harden, Susan Sprang, Rick Abel  
Farm Loan Programs:  
Kathy Hawk, Pam Oswald, Eric  
Guenther, Bruce Nutsch

## LIVESTOCK DEATH PROGRAM

FSA is currently administering the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), which provides indemnity benefits for livestock that die as a result of adverse weather. Adverse weather includes extreme heat, extreme cold, blizzard, winter storm, flood, earthquake, hail, hurricane, lightning, tornado, tropical storm, typhoon and wildfire. Benefits are issued for losses in excess of normal mortality for the livestock type, and weight range. Payment rates are equal to 75% of the fair market value of the livestock by weight range, as determined by FSA. To be eligible, you must be associated with a farming operation, and own the livestock at the time of death. Other eligibility requirements include compliance with conservation and adjusted gross income provisions for the year the benefits are requested.

### HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

First of all, you must meet the filing requirements. For losses related to adverse weather, you must notify the FSA office within 30 days of the date of death. This can be done in person, or by phone. You must also document the death occurred, and what caused the death loss. This program is administered on a calendar year basis, so for 2010, you must document these losses through December 31, 2010. All notices of loss for 2010 must be filed, and applications for payment made, by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### HOW DO YOU DOCUMENT THE LOSS?

There are 3 types of documentation. The first is considered verifiable, the most common of which is veterinary records, rendering truck records, insurance claim documents, or commercial feedlot records. The information on this record must include livestock type, weight, date of death, and cause of death. If the record does not have all of this information, it is not verifiable. The second type of verification is considered reliable. This includes dated pictures, and any other contemporaneous record that exists. With this type of

record, you are also required to provide a beginning inventory record, and an ending inventory record. The third type of evidence is a third party verification. This can only be used if a producer has no evidence that falls into one of the first two verification categories. A third party verification is an FSA form (FSA-926). It must be completed in its entirety by one or more individuals that are not related to, or employed by you. This record also requires submission of a verifiable inventory record for the date of the adverse weather event.

### ARE YOU REQUIRED TO REPORT, ONLY DISASTER AFFECTED ANIMALS?

No. You must document ALL death losses, whether disaster affected, or just normal mortality. And both must be documented the same way. If you have a disaster affected death loss early in the year, but have not met the normal mortality threshold, a normal death loss later in the year could make the earlier loss eligible for payment. Conversely, normal deaths that occur early in the year must be reported, to make later disaster losses payable.

### IF YOU COMPLY WITH ALL THIS, ARE YOU GUARANTEED A PAYMENT?

No. The Atchison County Committee is burdened with the responsibility of determining that your loss documentation, and inventory data meets program requirements. In addition to that, the Committee must determine that the death losses for payment were the result of an eligible adverse weather event in the county. Not every rainstorm, or snowstorm, or hot/cold spell is going to be categorized as an eligible adverse weather event. Another consideration, is that management decisions, made by the applicant, must not have contributed to the loss. Please understand that this is a disaster program and entitlement must be tied to an eligible adverse weather condition.



## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE) 2008

The SURE program provides benefits to crop and forage producers that suffered revenue losses as a result of an eligible natural disaster event. Losses must be cumulative on all crops of economic significance in the farming operation. Atchison County is contiguous to one or more counties that have a Secretarial Disaster designation for a natural disaster event that occurred in 2008. As a result, producers with at least one crop that suffered a production loss of 10% or more in 2008, and carried crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance, may qualify for benefits under this program. A crop of economic significance has a value of at least 5% of the total crop values for the farming operation in the disaster year. Values are placed on all commercial crops, including hay and grain commercially sold, or fed, for determining economic significance. Producers, who feel they may qualify, should contact the FSA office to initiate a review of your 2008 crop insurance data. Information will be gathered and loaded into a spreadsheet to determine eligibility for benefits. A signup deadline has not been established at this time.

## DCP/ACRE SIGNUP ONGOING THROUGH JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

Signup into the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is underway, and will end on June 1, 2010. These contracts must be signed annually. Advance payments of 22% of the total direct payment for each farm can be requested at signup. Final payments are issued in October. If you are interested in signing up, contact the FSA office and let us know if you have any changes to your operation for 2010. Changes include shares, added farms, deleted farms, purchases or sales of land, changes to your cropland, etc. After contact is made, we will process your forms, and then contact you when they are ready for your signature.

## REPORT YOUR WHEAT AND OATS BY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for timely reports of wheat, oats and any other small grains you plant for 2010 harvest. We will need to know your shares, planting dates, acreage, and intended use of the crop. Small grains reported after June 1 will incur a late file fee of \$46 per farm. Acreage reporting is a requirement for participation in DCP, ACRE, CRP, commodity loan program, disaster programs, and for eligibility for loan deficiency payments, if applicable.

## \*\*\*\*\*OTHER REMINDERS\*\*\*\*\*

**CRP** – CRP contract acreage must be maintained to prevent erosion, invasion of trees and brush, invasion by weeds/noxious weeds, and ensure adequate grass cover. Please inspect your acres and contact our office if you have concerns or if a consultation is necessary.

**JUNE 1, 2010** – DCP/ACRE signup ends, and the last day to timely report small grain acreage.

**Sodbuster/Swampbuster** – Be sure to request a highly erodible land (HEL) or wetland determination prior to bringing wet areas, or new cropland into production. A violation of these provisions jeopardizes USDA benefits.

**FSA Website** -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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