



November 2009



Marshall County News



Marshall County USDA Service Center

Marshall County FSA
1133 Pony Express Hwy
Marysville KS 66508
785-562-5343
785-562-5640
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Duane Polson, Chairperson
Patricia Sue Grauer, Vice-Chairperson
Beverly Hedke, Regular Member

County Committee meets
Second Thursday of the month

Office Staff:
Keith E Tilley, CED
Kay McCoy, FLM
Ray Mueting, FLO
Marsha Schell, PT
Jean Merrill, PT
Sarah Lee, PT
Kelly Schotte, PT
Virginia Ratliff, PT

Field Staff:
Dennis Smith



2010 FARM PROGRAM SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec 1, 2009. A cap on counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity. *Please make your appointment by calling our office at 785-562-5343.*

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operations can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as possible to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes in shares, changes of operator or tenant, changes to your bank account, etc.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

Foreign owners of US 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% of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

ACREAGE SPOT CHECK DETERMINATIONS AND NOTIFICATION

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to insure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checks, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

OPERATION & BANK CHANGES

Report any changes in land ownership and leases. We need a copy of the deed, sales contract or property tax statement to prove land ownership. Also, report any deceased owner's or operators. Notify us of any new or changes in estates, trusts, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, etc. Report changes of address or changes to your bank account number so direct deposits are made to the proper account.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses may only sign loan documents on behalf of each other if there is a Power of Attorney on file.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.





**IMPORTANT DATES
TO REMEMBER:**

May 31, 2010 – Final date to certify small grain acreage.

June 1, 2010 – Final date to sign up in the farm program.

**MARSHALL
COUNTY 2010
COC ELECTION**

FSA accepted nominations until August 1st for candidates who were eligible to serve on the local committee. FSA mailed ballots to producers beginning Nov 3. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec 7. The incumbent is Duane Polson.

The LAA election covers the following townships: Richland, Bridget, Guittard, Murray, Rock, Lincoln, Vermillion, Noble, Clear Fork, and Cleveland.

THE ACRE OPTION

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 insured 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 guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

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 shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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 Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
Tree Assistance (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.

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. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producer 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.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"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."

