



Miami / Johnson Co Newsletter

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 1-DCP/ACRE sign up starts

Nov. 6-COC Ballots were mailed out

Dec. 1- NAP policy due for hay and grasses, peaches, strawberries

Dec. 7- Ballots are due to the Miami/Johnson Co FSA office

Continuing - 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program for Quantity and Quality

On-Going - Farm Storage Facility Loans, Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans, SDA and Beginning Farmer Farm Loans, Youth Loans, Continuous CRP

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in meetings should contact Myron Stroup at (913)294-3751 or e-mail myron.stroup@ks.usda.gov 1-2 weeks prior to the event.

2010 DCP Signup

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. 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.

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 incurred 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.



Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



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 Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (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.

Producers 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.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters, in local administrative area (LAA) conducting election, on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Merle Kaiser is nominated in LAA1, Tyler Lynn is nominated in LAA 4, each to serve as a committee member.

Eligible voters in a LAA 1 & 4 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

County Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month.
Merle Kaiser, Jerry Weaver, Chris Carstens, David Moll,
Tom Boehm, and Ruth Hadle

County Committee Elections

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters, in local administrative area conducting election, starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

BCAP assists agriculture and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the amount paid for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (CHST) of eligible materials by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF); and supports establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy through project areas.

The program provides matching payments for the sale and delivery of eligible material to a qualified BCF. Payments to eligible materials owners will be at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by the qualified BCF., limited to a maximum \$45 per dry ton not to exceed a 2 year payment duration.

To become an eligible BCF, facilities must submit an agreement and other documentation to the Kansas FSA State Office, 3600 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66503 for approval. Obtain a list of eligible materials and BCF agreement at www.fsa.usda.gov then click on 'Energy Programs' in the left column.

To date, the following facilities have been approved as qualifying Biomass Conversion Facilities for producers in Kansas counties:

- Prairie Fire BioEnergy Cooperative, 97 W Hwy 4, Healy, KS 67850, Phone (620) 398-2370.
- Show Me Energy Cooperative, 102 SW 58 Highway, Centerview, MO 64019-0177, Phone (660) 656-3780.

Producers with contracts to deliver eligible biomass materials to an approved BCF must file an application at the local FSA county office before sale or delivery of the materials to be eligible for the CHST payments.

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."