



Allen County FSA Office
202 W Miller Road
Iola, KS 66749
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Hours: Monday- Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

November 2009

County Committee Members

Marvin Sanders, Chairperson
Gary Coltrane, Vice Chairperson
David Bedenbender, Member
Donna Beebe, COC Advisor

The Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

Office Staff: Doug Peine, CED

Lindsey Hammond, PT
Marthena Spainhoward, PT
Jandy Wiltse, PT
Jessica Wesley- COT

ACREAGE REPORTS

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits. Producers participating in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments, Conservation Reserve Program, and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report their acres or coverage.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether fallow or planted. Producers are required to file reports by May 31, for small grains. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the May 31, deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit at a minimum charge of \$46 per farm.

Prevented planted acres are to be reported within 15 days after the final plant date. Allen County prevented planted wheat needs to be reported by December 1, 2009.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM RAISED FISH (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions. This includes losses due to blizzards and wildfires that are not covered by LIP, LFP, or SURE. Eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses, and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

Producers must file a notice of loss before the following deadlines in order to be eligible for ELAP.

<u>When loss Occurred</u>	<u>When to file notice of loss</u>
2008 Losses	Dec. 10, 2009
Jan.1-Sept. 13, 2009	Dec. 10, 2009
Sept. 13- Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after loss but not after Jan. 30, 2010

Producers must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage on **all** crops planted or prevented from being planted on the entire farm to be eligible for ELAP. Anyone who has 2008 or 2009 losses and does not have insurance or NAP coverage please contact the office immediately to explore relief options.

FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

FSA is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to keep record of land purchased by persons who are not citizens of the United States. Foreign owners of agricultural land are required to visit an FSA office and report their land on a FSA-153 form. Any foreign person who holds, acquires, or transfers an interest in agricultural land and does not submit a FSA-153 is subject to a civil penalty of 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed. Contact your local office for additional information.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have recently bought, sold, renting different land, or even if you have switched bank accounts make sure and report all changes to FSA on all land you have or accounts that you use. Not reporting could lead to possible program ineligibility, delays in payments, or loss of benefits. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract to verify proof of ownership.

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 LAA #3. This includes the Osage, Marmaton, and Elsmore townships. Daryl Drake and Sandra Murrow are the candidates. If, for some reason, you do not 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. No one can 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.

PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP

Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), and Kansas State University Research and Extension are putting together a burn workshop to be held on Dec. 7, 2009 at the Allen County Court House, Assembly room.

Topics to be discussed are CRP Maintenance, Burn Considerations, Wildlife and Prescribed Burning, Local Regulations, Producer Panel, Weather Products, Planning and Conducting a Burn, and Equipment Demonstration.

Registration starts at 8:30am and the workshop begins at 9:00am. There will be a \$5.00 fee to cover materials and lunch. For reservations please contact Carla Nemecek at the Allen County Extension Office (620)365-2242.

For special accommodations please contact Doug Peine at (620)365-2901 by November 30, 2009.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

December 1, 2009, is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for non-insurable crops including: all Grasses, Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cane berries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

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.

Some producers purchased a hay policy from an insurance agent to meet the 2009 disaster eligibility requirement. These producers may have received a notice saying their policy was canceled because the insurance provider is switching from a vegetative index to a rainfall index policy. Many producers have called the Farm Service Agency (FSA) wondering if they still need coverage. The same rule applies for 2010. If the coverage was needed for disaster eligibility in 2009 then coverage will still be necessary to remain eligible for disaster benefits in 2010.

One of the disaster programs of interest to area crop producers is the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). It covers revenue losses for all mechanically harvested commodities, which would include hay. To be eligible for SURE all crops that have more than a 5% economic significance to an individual producer's operation must be covered by some type of insurance policy. A NAP policy could meet the hay insurance requirement if one decides not to get coverage from an insurance agent.

The NAP administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and an \$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.

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."

LDP's

With harvest underway we tend to think about crop prices. Remember that if prices drop below the loan rate you are eligible for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A producer may be eligible for and choose to receive an LDP in lieu of securing a marketing loan. An LDP is the difference between the loan rate at a given location and the announced posted county price for the applicable commodity.

LDP's are based on the lesser of one of the following: the 30-calendar-day method or the alternative method.

30-Calendar- Day Method

CCC will determine and publish LDP's based on average market prices during the preceding 30-calendar-day period. The 30-calendar-day method will reflect a 30-calendar-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and county loan rate. Wheat will be determined by the terminal price for a specific class.

Alternative Method:

CCC will determine and publish LDP's based on an alternative rate. The secretary developed an alternative method based on a proceeding 5-calendar-day period, replacing the current method based on the previous day's markets rates. The 5-calendar-day alternative method will reflect a 5 calendar-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by the following: applicable county differential and a 5-calendar-day average of applicable terminal market adjustments. This method will moderate fluctuations, lessen the effects that the daily market volatilities have on loan repayments rates, and provide more certainty for producers using MALS's and LPD's.

Here are the 2009 loan rates for Allen County:

Commodity	Allen County Loan Rate
Corn \$/Bushel	2.04
Grain Sorghum \$/Cwt.	3.33
Oats \$/Bushel	1.37
Soybeans \$/Bushel	4.96
Sunflower seed - Oil Type \$/Cwt.	9.15
Wheat - Hard Red Winter /Bushel	2.67

Watch the market prices during harvest and before losing beneficial interest. If prices get below the loan rates listed above you will want to sign a 633EZ page 1. A producer retains beneficial interest in the commodity if all of the following remain with the producer: control of the commodity, title to the commodity, or risk to the commodity. We will have these forms available for you in the office.

Dates To Remember	
Oct. 1, 2009 – June 1, 2009	2010 DCP and ACRE Sign Up Starts
Nov. 6, 2009	COC Election Ballots Mailed out
Nov. 15, 2009	Final Plant Date for Wheat
Dec. 1, 2009	Nap polices due for all grasses, alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, honey, mixed forages, and oats
	Prevented planted wheat is to be reported
Dec. 7, 2009	COC ballots due to the Allen County FSA office Burn School
Dec. 10, 2009	ELAP notice of Loss Due

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

"Lender of First Opportunity"

FSA has programs that can help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! Loan assistance is available to: beginning farmers and ranchers, rural youths, socially disadvantaged producers, established farmers suffering setbacks, and farmers with limited resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,112,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. Youth loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA, and similar organizations.

Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to: racial, ethnic or gender prejudice.

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010.

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 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 the 2010 crop, 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, you do not receive 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 wanting to sign up for DCP and ACRE. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.