



COFFEY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

313 Cross Street
Burlington, KS 66839
Phone: (620) 364-2313
Fax: (620) 364-3149
www.fsa.usda.gov

HOURS:

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

Office Closed

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

County Committee

Max Osborn
Bonnie Davies
John Henry Rolf

Meetings - 2nd Wednesday of every month

Staff

Kim Specht, PT
Vicki Fry, PT
Vickie Wolford, PT
Megan Wilson, PT

Loan Manager

Stacy Kull

Executive Director

Marilyn Glissman

IN THIS ISSUE

Producer Appreciation Day
Livestock Assistance Programs
Informational Meeting
Farm Stored Facility Loans
SURE Program
DCP/ACRE Signup
Prevented Planted Acreage

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.

COFFEY COUNTY FSA NEWS

November 2009



Producer Appreciation Day

The Coffey County USDA Service Center is hosting their annual Producer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, December 8, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please stop by and join us for refreshments and holiday cheer. The Service Center staff wishes to express their appreciation to Coffey County producers and ag-related businesses for another year of cooperation in serving area farmers and ranchers.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

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 your local FSA county 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. 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.

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, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires that are not covered by LIP, LFP, or SURE. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment no later than Dec. 10, 2009. Producers who suffered eligible losses during Jan. 1, 2009, through Sept. 13, 2009, shall provide a notice of loss no later than Dec. 10, 2009, and an application for payment no later than Jan. 30, 2010. Producers who suffer 2009 losses after Sept. 13, 2009 shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than Jan. 30, 2010. An application for payment shall be filed no later than Jan. 30, 2010. Producers must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops planted on the entire farm to be eligible for ELAP.

Informational Meeting

The Coffey County Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Farm Service Agency (FSA) will have an Informational Meeting on December 1, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm at the Conference Room of the Coffey County Library - Burlington Branch. Topics of discussion will include:

- ◆ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- ◆ Sign-up Dates for cost share assistance
- ◆ Farm Storage Facility Loans
- ◆ Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)
- ◆ Livestock Assistance Programs (LIP, LFP, ELAP)

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

The 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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

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, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass



Supplemental Revenue Assistance payments (SURE)

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. This program replaces the Crop Disaster Program. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer, and all hay crops. SURE payments are available to producers on farms that are located in a county receiving a USDA Secretarial Declaration, or the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. SURE will cover losses for 2008 through 2011. **There is no sign-up date announced at this time.**

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue. The guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected. Higher levels of coverage will result in higher crop guarantees. For NAP crops, the guarantee is based on a formula that includes the yield, acreage, and price factors.

For a producer to be eligible for SURE, all of the farming operation's commodities that are of economic significance must be covered by either Federal Crop Insurance (CI) or FSA's NAP coverage. Included in the Total Farm Revenue calculation are estimated crop value, CI indemnities, NAP payments, Market Assistance Loan proceeds, other disaster payments, DCP payments (15% of direct payments, plus cc payments and ACRE payments.)

County Committee Elections

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters, in local administrative area 2, which includes the southwest part of the county from 16th on the north to Oxen Rd on the east. If, for some reason, you didn't receive a ballot, feel free to notify our office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 7, 2009.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. The county office staff will be mailing appointment postcards.

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.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

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.

Prevented Planted Acreage Reports

A wet fall has prevented some producers from planting acreage. Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster.

Producers are reminded that a timely prevented planting credit request must be filed at the FSA County office on a FSA-578 and CCC-576, Part B within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. The winter wheat final planting for Coffey County is November 15.

Producers must provide documentation to establish that:

- all cropland feasible to plant but prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision.
- preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land, orders for purchase, delivery of seed and fertilizer, or financing documents.

Timely reported prevented planting acreage provides acreage credit for history and program purposes. Producers are reminded that they must file an accurate crop and acreage report on all cropland on the entire farm to remain eligible for many FSA programs.

Producers with prevented planted acreage shall contact the local FSA office to file an acreage report and notice of loss within 15 days of the final planting date.

REMINDERS

- December 1 - Informational Meetings
- December 1 - NAP application deadline for certain crops including grasses and alfalfa
- December 7 - Final date to return ballots for COC election
- December 8 - Producer Appreciation Day

