

County Committee:

Carolyn Michael, Chairperson
Joe Murphy, Vice-Chairperson
Larry Richard, Member
*(Committee meets 2nd Thursday of each month
at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center)*

US Department of Agriculture

Crawford County FSA Office
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Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm

NOVEMBER, 2009

Judy A. Jacquinet
County Executive Director



Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues from Oct. 1, 2009 to June 1, 2010. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. FSA 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. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. Farms with bases of 10.0 acres or less are not eligible for DCP or ACRE unless at least 50% of farm is owned by producers who meet the FSA definition of a socially disadvantaged applicant (SDA) or a limited resource producer.



FSA has programs that can help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! Loan assistance for eligible: Beginning farmers and ranchers • Rural Youths • Socially disadvantaged producers • Established farmers suffering setbacks • 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.

WHEAT PREVENTED PLANTING

An unusually wet and cool fall planting season may lead to a number of acres not being planted that were originally intended for wheat. Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage on the FSA-578, "Report of Commodities" and complete the CCC-576, "Notice of Loss", Part B within 15 calendar days after the November 15 wheat final planting date, in order for the loss to be considered timely filed. Evidence to prove intent to plant must be provided by the producer.

Report all planted crops. These acreage reports are required for program participation in 2010. The final date to timely report fall seeded and spring seeded small grain crops is June 1, 2010.

Noninsured Coverage

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers affected by natural disasters. NAP covers eligible losses caused by natural disaster that are not named as an insurable peril under a crop insurance policy. For Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, eligible producers must apply and pay the applicable service fees by the application closing date. NAP Fees are \$250 per crop; \$750 per county; \$1,875 per producer for all counties.



Application deadlines are as follows:
For 2010, Continuous Crop Wheat planted with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for NAP.

Dec. 1 - all grasses, alfalfa, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, clover, grapes, lespedeza, honey, mixed forage, oats for hay/graze, peaches, plums, strawberries.

Jan. 1 - apples and pears.

March 15 - coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, millet, sorghum forage, sunflowers.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) applies to losses occurring on acres located within geographic areas declared as a disaster by the Secretary or an overall production loss greater than 50% on the farm. It is important to note that for this program, the farm means the sum of all crop acreages in all counties that the producer has an interest in the crop(s). This includes acres that are hayed.

Benefits under this program are calculated by determining a farm's program guarantee and the total farm revenue. The program guarantee includes the price election for an insurable crop or the established price for NAP crops, the producer's acres of that crop and the yield. The total for all crops within the farm make up the farm's program guarantee. Total farm revenue is comprised of the harvested acres, actual yield, national average market price, indemnities (insurance or NAP) and program payments from commodity programs such as DCP or commodity loan benefits (gains or LDPs). Payments will be based on 60% of the difference between 90% of the program guarantee and the total farm revenue.

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 Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.



The SURE program is designed to be a total farm revenue program and not a specific crop by crop disaster program. SURE will cover losses for 2008 through 2011. There is no sign-up date announced at this time.



Biomass Crop Assistance Program (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 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.



Vote and make a difference!

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agriculture community and the USDA. Ballots will be mailed on Nov. 6 to eligible voters in the local administrative area conducting the election. Ballots must be returned by Dec. 7.

Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program will continue to be available to eligible livestock producers on farms/ranches that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather, during the 2009 through 2011 calendar years. The eligible adverse weather events include losses because of floods, blizzards, disease exacerbated by adverse weather, wildfires, lightning, tornado, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Producers who suffer livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business. The notice of loss must be submitted the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the producer
- 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred

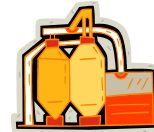


An application for payment along with documentation of the loss may then be filed anytime up to January 30 of the following year. A producer may file multiple notices of loss and applications for payment. There are no late-filed application provisions for LIP. Accurate records will assist in compiling satisfactory livestock death loss documentation. A producer must provide verifiable and reliable documentation of the livestock deaths and inventory at the time of the adverse event. In some circumstances, producer records and independent third party certifications may be accepted.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 included changes for the Farm Storage Facility Loan program:

- Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years.
- Increased the maximum loan amount to \$500,000 per loan.
- \$100 application fee per borrower.
- Loans for cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.
- Loans for hay storage facilities.
- Loans for biomass storage facilities.
- Must obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops.



Loans are also available for grain and silage farm storage facilities. A real estate mortgage is required for loans over \$50,000. Portable and used equipment are not eligible. Loan must be approved by the FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started.

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.