



DECEMBER 2009



Labette County News

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Labette County FSA
115 W. 4th St
PO Box 437
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5431 phone
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at
www.fsa.usda.gov or
email at
kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov

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

County Committee:
Ken Foster, Chair
Darlene Ferguson, Vice
Chair
David Dhooche, Mem-
ber
County Committee
meets the 1st Wednes-
day of each month

Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Annetta Henry, PT
Sally McKinzie, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT
Jim Dark, FLM
Michelle Cerne, FLO

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

For current information
about FSA and agriculture
in general, check out the
following websites:
www.usda.fsa.gov
www.usda.fsa.gov/ks
www.ksda.gov
<http://agriculture.senate.gov>
www.oznet.ksu.edu
www.kansas.gov/kaahd
www.nass.usda.gov

2009 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

More rates can be ac-
cessed online at
www.usda.fsa.gov under
Price Support.

HRW Wheat--\$2.67
SRW Wheat--\$1.84
Corn--\$2.09
Grain Sorghum--\$3.48
Soybeans--\$4.99

SIGNUP FOR 2010 DCP

We are now taking appointments for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and acreage reporting. Producers may request an advance DCP payment of 22%. This signup requires all producers to sign the DCP contract (CCC-509), agreeing to the crop share division. If a farm is cash leased, the operator needs to provide our office either a copy of the cash lease agreement, obtain the owner's signature on the DCP contract, or certify to the cash lease on FSA form CCC-510. In order to maintain payment eligibility, all producers must also verify the farming operation information to which they certified in 2009 and file a new adjusted gross income statement.

We ask that producers do this by appointment, as it increases our efficiency and you will have less wait time. Even calling a day ahead helps. The deadline for DCP signup is May 31, 2010.

REPORT FARM CHANGES NOW

Many farming changes are made every year. If you have sold or bought land, changed the way you do business (formed or changed a trust, corporation, etc.), assumed operatorship of a farm for 2010, or any other type of farm business change, please notify us now. We also need to know of any address changes or, if you have direct deposit, any bank account change. The best time to correct farm records is before a new program signup begins. This allows you to receive correct information and payments and can prevent problems down the road. The only way we know a change has been made is if YOU notify US. We cannot sign a farm or farming operation that has any changes into the DCP program.

ANNUAL RAINFALL 180% NORMAL

This is no surprise to you—by the middle of November, Labette County, on average, was showing a generous 60 inches of rain for the year, which is about 180% of normal. This has wreaked havoc on crop harvesting and planting. Producers should currently be reporting any 2010 prevented planting wheat acres to FSA. We will record your acreage report electronically and complete a manual request on form FSA-576, both of which require the producer's signature. After December 1, a late-filed fee must be paid by producers at \$30 per farm and \$16 per hour. Prevented planting acres can only be approved by the County Committee if the producer intended to plant the crop acreage for harvest, other producers in the area are similarly affected, and the crop acreage was prevented from planting due to a natural disaster and not a management decision. Proof of intent to plant may be required by the COC.

LABETTE CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Labette County Conservation District Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 6:30pm. Reservations should be turned in by January 6, 2010, to Julie Ryan, Labette County Conservation District secretary. Call Julie at 620-784-5613, X29, or email julie.ryan@ks.nacdnet.net.

The meeting will begin with free dinner, sponsored by Labette County banks, in the LCHS cafeteria in Altamont. Entertainment will be provided by Rex Getz, Comedian-Magician and is sponsored by local businesses. A short business meeting will be held to elect a supervisor to the conservation District board, followed by the presentation of the Kansas Bankers Association Soil Conservation and Windbreak Awards, and the Elementary Conservation Poster Awards.

NEW FACILITY LOAN REGULATIONS

USDA Farm Service Agency's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been updated according to provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. In addition to the grains previously eligible, USDA has added Hay, Renewable Biomass, and Fruit, Vegetable and Nut crops as eligible crops. Multi-peril crop or NAP insurance through FSA is required on all commodities stored in the FSFL-funded facility.

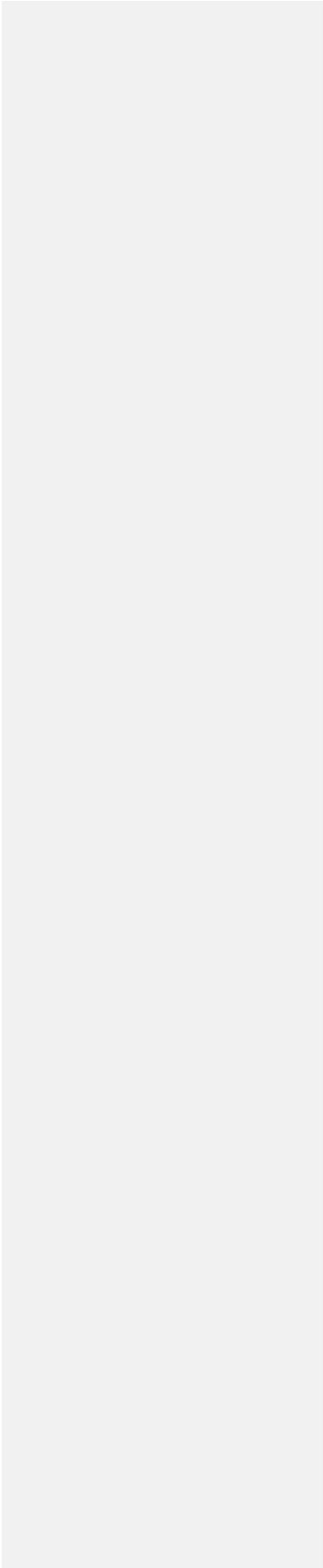
Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the dollar amount of the loan. Maximum principal amounts can range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Interest rates for each term are different—for example, the December interest rate for a 7-year loan is 3.0%. Participants are required to provide a cash 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 equipment. A non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required for each loan. 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.

Hay storage facilities must be built according to acceptable design guidelines from land-grant universities or CSREES (Extension Service). All building designs or plans must carry a PE (Professional Engineer) stamp.

Eligible borrowers must meet all credit rating, security agreement, and insurance requirements.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Lafayette County FSA Office
115 West 4th St, PO Box 437
Altamont, KS 67330-0437

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IMPORTANT DATES

December 25—Office closed for Christmas

January 1—Office closed for New Year's

January 16—Conservation District Annual Meeting

January 18—Office closed for Martin Luther King Birthday

February 15—Office closed for President's Day

March 15—Deadline to purchase NAP pecan coverage



Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home. ~Edith Sitwell

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LABETTE COUNTY PRODUCERS ELIGIBLE FOR SURE

Labette County has recently been notified that the county has met the initial eligibility requirement for the 2008 SURE program due to being contiguous to Craig County, Oklahoma, which received a USDA Secretarial disaster declaration in 2008. We do not have any information on a SURE signup period yet, but will let you know as soon as we receive the information. The SURE (SUpplemental REvenue) program is a permanent revenue protection disaster program available to commodity producers.

Producers will be eligible for 2008 SURE benefits if they had a 10% production loss on any crop of economic significance AND all of a producer's crops of economic significance were insured through either RMA crop insurance or FSA's NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) insurance. A De Minimus waiver may apply if a crop is valued at less than 5% of the total expected farm revenue or the NAP fee exceeds 10% of the value of the NAP coverage.

SURE program payments will be 60 percent of the difference between a farm's SURE revenue guarantee and total annual revenue. SURE is subject to a \$100,000 producer payment limitation.

2010 COC ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for this year's County Committee election were tallied at the County Committee meeting on December 9, 2009. Ken Foster was re-elected as the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which consists of Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland Townships. Labette County is divided into 3 LAA's based on farm population, with one representative from each area serving on the County Committee. The 3-year terms are staggered. County Committee members meet once monthly and serve the important purposes of determining local policies, hearing appeals, and supervising the County Executive Director. Committees are also responsible for making national farm programs fit the needs and situations faced by local farmers and ranchers and bring local expertise and knowledge to USDA's daily delivery of programs.

EQIP/WHIP DEADLINE JANUARY 15

An application evaluation cutoff date of **January 15, 2010**, has been established for the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) available through NRCS (Natural Resource and Conservation Service). Applications may be submitted anytime; however, applications will be gathered for ranking at that point. Landowners and/or operators with eligible cropland, rangeland, or forestland with any EQIP/WHIP concerns listed below should apply at their local NRCS field office and work with them on a conservation plan.

Kansas EQIP eligible priority natural resource concerns are:

Air Quality—objectionable odors
Domestic Animals—inadequate stock water
Fish and Wildlife—threatened, endangered, and declining species, and species of concern
Plant Condition—noxious or invasive plants; productivity, health, vigor (forestland, rangeland, pastureland, hay land)
Soil Condition—organic matter depletion
Soil Erosion
Streambank Water Quality—excessive nutrients/organics in ground and/or surface water, excessive Suspended Sediment and turbidity in surface water, harmful levels of pesticides in ground and/or surface water
Water Quantity—aquifer overdraft, inefficient water use on irrigated land, inefficient water use on non-irrigated land, and insufficient flows in water courses

Kansas WHIP wildlife priorities are: Threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation; Grassland birds; and Natural communities.

EQIP is also available for treating natural resource concerns on organic systems. Organic producers, or those transitioning to organic, may apply for EQIP to address their natural resource concerns during this period.

Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate through EQIP and WHIP for structural and vegetative practices.

Call the Labette County NRCS for more information at 620-784-5613 or check online at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/