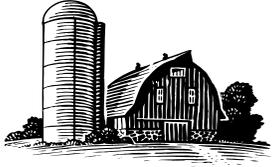




MARCH 2010



# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
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620-784-5431 phone  
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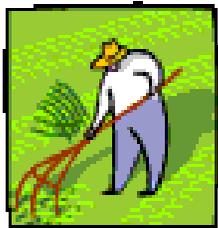
Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

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

**County Committee:**  
Ken Foster, Chair  
Darlene Ferguson, Vice  
Chair  
David Dhooghe, Mem-  
ber  
County Committee  
meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.usda.fsa.gov)  
[www.usda.fsa.gov/ks](http://www.usda.fsa.gov/ks)  
[www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov)  
<http://agriculture.senate.gov>  
[www.oznet.ksu.edu](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu)  
[www.kansas.gov/kahd](http://www.kansas.gov/kahd)  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



In the spring, at the  
end of the day, you  
should smell like dirt.  
--Margaret Atwood

## NEW LIVESTOCK LOSS PROGRAM AVAILABLE

LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program) is a program that provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather during the calendar year. This includes hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, lightning, tornadoes, extreme heat and extreme cold.

Filing for LIP is not tricky, but does require producers to document and report each and every livestock death in the calendar year, no matter the cause. Producers must file a notice of loss with their administrative county FSA office within 30 days of the livestock death; this may be filed by phone, fax or email as well as in person. For example, producers may document the livestock death with their camera phone and email the photo to the county office at [kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov). With that photo documentation, the producer also needs to report the weather event and date, livestock type and weight range, and livestock inventory on hand on the date of the weather event. After normal mortality has been met or at the end of the calendar year and prior to January 30, 2011, producers will file an Application for Payment, form FSA-914.

Payment will be made for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality for the herd. Normal mortality rates by livestock type, age, and weight were established by the Kansas State FSA Committee. The Kansas normal mortality rate for Adult Beef Cows is 1.1%. For more information on mortality rates, call the Labette County FSA or check online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks). Eligibility requirements include: legal ownership of the livestock on the date of death; death occurred within 60 days of the adverse weather event; livestock maintained as part of a commercial farming operation on the day they died. Eligible livestock include, but are not limited to, Adult and Non-Adult beef and dairy cattle, swine, sheep and goats, and poultry.

## LADIES, SAVE THE DATE!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Labette County conference for Women In Agriculture has been set for Thursday, April 8. The conference will again be held in the Altamont First Baptist Church Annex from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Attendance is free, and lunch will be provided by Commercial Bank of Parsons. Programs and speakers slated for the day include Rich Proehl, State Representative; Emily Zwahlen, KARL program; Robin Goddard, Master Gardener; and two local successful small market farmers. Door prizes and a free skincare demonstration are also on the agenda. Contact either Labette County FSA or Labette County Extension for reservations by April 1. Please share this invitation with other women in agriculture you think might like to attend.

Producers must also meet the Adjusted Gross Income payment limitation of \$500,000. LIP payments are paid based on a national payment rate for each livestock category. For example, the 2010 payment rate for Adult Beef Cows is \$631.41.

Applicants must provide adequate proof 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.

One of the easiest ways to do this is to request FSA complete an on-site inspection of the livestock deaths for a fee, at the producer's request, within **one week** of the deaths. The quantity and kind of livestock may also be documented by: purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan documents, rendering truck receipts or certificates, Federal Emergency Management Agency records, National Guard records, written contracts, production records, records assembled for tax purposes, property tax records, private insurance documents, and similar documents.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, FSA will accept reliable records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records as proof of death. Reliable records may include, but are not limited to: contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the adverse weather event, pictures(s) with a date, brand inspection records, dairy herd improvement records, and other similar reliable documents.

As a last resort, FSA will also accept certifications of livestock deaths by third parties on Form FSA-926 if the livestock owner or livestock contract grower, as applicable, certifies in writing that there is no other documentation of death available; the number of livestock were in inventory at the time of the adverse weather event; and the third party provides their telephone number, address and a written statement containing specific details about their knowledge of the livestock deaths, their affiliation with the livestock owner, and the accuracy of the deaths claimed by the livestock owner.

## CRP GENERAL SIGNUP LIKELY FOR JUNE

Although producers may apply for Continuous CRP practices anytime, a General CRP Signup may happen in June. According to Jonathon Coppess, FSA Administrator, "The last time USDA had a general sign-up was in 2006. We start Fiscal Year 2010 with 31 million acres in the CRP—about 2.6 million fewer acres than a year ago. With declining commodity prices...since the highs of 2007 and 2008, interest in CRP enrollment is again accelerating. Looking forward, contracts for about 15.3 million acres currently enrolled in CRP are scheduled to expire between 2010 and 2012."

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 9**—COC Meeting

**March 15**—Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP Insurance on pecans and some other crops.

**March 31**—Deadline for 2009 small grain commodity loan apps

**April 7**—COC Meeting

**April 8**—Women in Agriculture Conference in Altamont

**May 5**—COC Meeting

## 2009 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

More rates can be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://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

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## DCP SIGNUP AND ACREAGE REPORTS DUE BY MAY 31

Producers must enroll in the 2010 DCP program and report small grains on their farms if they wish to receive the 2010 DCP payment. This includes any producer who was prevented from planting intended wheat acreage. Individual producer payment eligibility will be reviewed at the time of signup. According to our records, only about 50% of the farms that historically enroll have been enrolled for 2010. Please contact the county office as soon as possible to make an appointment for this program.

## 2008 SURE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Many Lafayette County producers may be eligible for a 2008 crop revenue loss payment through the SURE (Supplemental Revenue) program. SURE is a permanent disaster assistance program that was created as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. SURE is a revenue-based payment program, rather than a production loss program. Producers qualify for payment if their total farm revenue is less than the farm's calculated revenue guarantee. SURE payment is 60% of the difference between the actual revenue and the revenue guarantee. Both the guarantee and actual revenue are calculated by FSA using producer acreage reports and insurance reports.

There are two important eligibility requirements. Producers must have insured ALL their crops of economic significance through either RMA or FSA's NAP insurance program for the disaster year. **This includes hay crops.** A farm also must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on any crop of economic significance. A crop of economic significance is defined as being valued at 5% or more of the total expected farm revenue (dollars).

Producers who meet these requirements and believe they may have suffered a revenue loss in 2008 should contact their administrative county office for an appointment to sign up for 2008 SURE. Signup is being completed manually for 2008 because software is not yet available, and FSA offices are receiving electronic reports of producers' insurance information from RMA. The reports will be used to calculate revenue guarantees, losses, and payment. Producers do not need to provide production history data for their farms.

## NEW CROP STORAGE OPTIONS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible Commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities and was updated with the 2008 Farm Bill. Local commodities eligible for FSFL are: Corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum, oats or barley harvested as whole grain or other-than-whole grain; Minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; Hay crops; Renewable biomass; and cold storage facilities for fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

A non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required for each loan. FSFL apps must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL application must be approved by FSA PRIOR to any site preparation or construction. Multi-peril crop or NAP insurance through FSA is required on ALL crops of economic significance grown by the loan applicant, and this does include hay crops. Producers must also meet need requirements based on their 3-year production average for grain, and 2-year production average for hay, minus existing storage.

Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan and both the interest rates and maximum principal amount of a FSFL loan can range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The February interest rate for a 7-year loan is 3.25%. 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.

Facilities must only be used for the purpose for which the storage facility was erected, and must have a useful lifespan of 15 years. 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 are landowners, landlords, leaseholders, tenants or sharecroppers who produce an eligible facility loan commodity and meet all credit rating requirements. Borrowers must also provide proof of all required insurance. Security requirements include a promissory note, security agreement, severance agreements, as well as a UCC-1 filing on the facility.

Contact the county office for more information on eligible cost items and structures.