



NOVEMBER 2009



Labette County News

Formatted Table



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 Dhooghe, 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

Food for Thought:
Nothing is a
waste of time if
you use the
experience
wisely.
--Auguste Rodin
www.oznet.ksu.edu
www.kansas.gov/kahd
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

GOODBYE 2009, HELLO 2010...

It seems that the 2009 crop/program year has dragged on, due to both FSA procedure changes and excessive rains in our area. Even though there are still a lot of 2009 acres left to harvest, we are wrapping up the 2009 program year and thinking ahead to 2010. Take a minute to think ahead with us.

2009 CRP and final DCP payments were issued this month, but due to a one-time change in the computer software system, the payment process did not run as smoothly as it has in past years. Transaction statements are confusing and software edits are still being made to issue the last few payments. If you have any questions concerning your 2009 final payments, please contact us here at the office.

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 2008, 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.

We are now taking appointments for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and acreage reporting. However, advance payments of 22% will not be available until December, 2009. 2010 acreage reports will be recorded the "old way" with manual maps. While we feel like this is a step backwards for technology, the process should be much faster. However, we still ask that you 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 both of these functions is May 31, 2010.

Speaking of acreage reports, we feel there may be a large number of prevented planting wheat acres for 2010. **A timely report of these acres to our office is another requirement for 2010 SURE program eligibility.** The deadline to report is 15 days after the final planting date, or November 30, 2009 for Labette County. Remember, 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.

NAP INSURANCE DEADLINE DECEMBER 1 Requirement for SURE Program

The SURE (SUpplemental REvenue) program is a new aspect of the 2008 Farm Bill. It is part of a larger set of annual permanent disaster assistance programs. The most important eligibility requirement of the SURE program is that ALL crops of economic significance must be insured through either RMA crop insurance or FSA's NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) insurance. NAP is available for crops not insurable through RMA. 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.

We have many producers in Labette County who harvest grass or other types of hay. If your hay crop is a crop of economic significance according to SURE rules, you MUST purchase NAP insurance to establish eligibility for a possible 2010 SURE program. The deadline to purchase NAP from FSA for 2010 coverage on grass, alfalfa, and mixed forage hay is December 1, 2009. The fee is \$250 per policy share. Grass for grazing is excluded from the SURE requirement, but NAP may also be purchased for grazed grass by December 1. For more information on SURE, contact the county office.

BURN WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 19

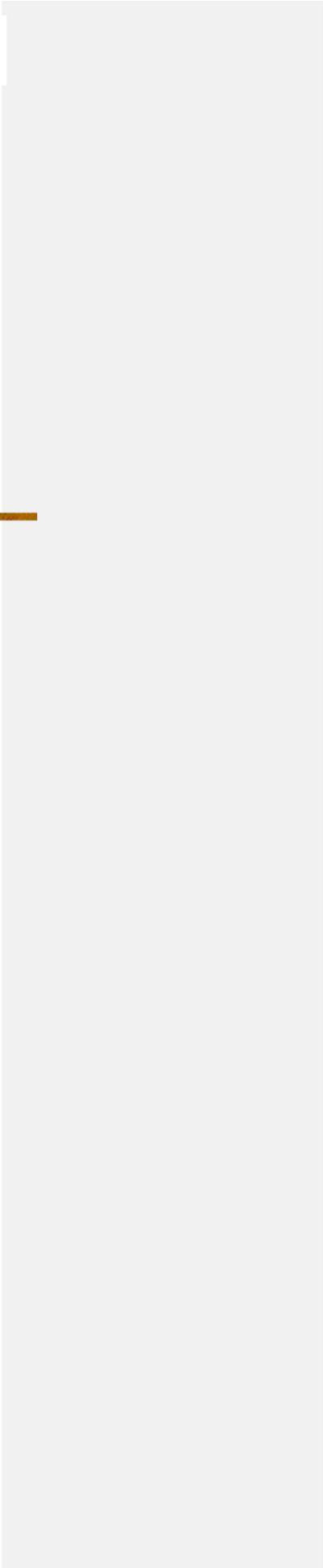
Labette and Neosho County USDA Offices are jointly hosting a Burn Workshop at K-State Extension's SEARC in Parsons, 13th and Pefley St. The workshop is for anyone interested in learning more about burning pastures and wildlife areas. The workshop begins at 9:00am, ends at 3:00pm and materials will cost \$3 per person. Lunch is being provided by Commercial Bank of Parsons. Please RSVP by **Friday, November 13** by calling either the Labette FSA at 784-5431 or Neosho FSA at 244-3491. Planned programs include a producer panel, local regulations, safety and liability issues, burning for wildlife, and a burn equipment demonstration.

2009 COC ELECTION DECEMBER 7

Ballots for this year's County Committee election have been mailed to producers living in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which consists of Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland Townships. Even though only one nomination was received, please exercise your right by marking and returning your ballot to the Labette county office. Write-in candidates will also be accepted. The deadline to return ballots is December 7. 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 a month and serve the important purposes of determining local policies, hearing appeals, and supervising the County Executive Director.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Labette County FSA Office
115 W. 4th St, PO Box 437
Altamont, KS 67330

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MANHATTAN, KS
PERMIT #86



IMPORTANT DATES

November 11—Office closed for Veterans Day
November 19—Burn Workshop in Parsons
December 1—Deadline to purchase NAP insurance for 2010 grass
December 1—2010 advance DCP payments can be requested
December 7—Deadline to return COC Election ballots to county office
December 25—Office closed for Christmas
January 1—Office closed for New Year's



"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."

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM AVAILABLE THROUGH 2011

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, lightning, tornadoes, extreme heat and extreme cold. FSA is currently accepting Notices of Loss for livestock deaths occurring after July 13, 2009.

Filing for LIP is a two-step process for each adverse weather event. Producers must first 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. The producer must report to FSA the weather event and date, livestock type and weight range, and livestock inventory on hand on the date of the weather event. At the end of the calendar year, the producer must file an Application for Payment, form FSA-914. The deadline to submit a final 2009 LIP Application for Payment for livestock deaths between July 13 and December 31, 2009 is January 30, 2010. The livestock death losses must have occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

Payment will be made for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. State 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.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. The death must have occurred no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event and in the calendar year for which benefits are requested. The livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a 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. Producers must also meet the Adjusted Gross Income payment limitation of \$500,000.

USDA calculates LIP payments by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. USDA bases the LIP national payment rate for eligible livestock owners on 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock; for example, the 2009 payment rate for Adult Beef Cows is \$694.98.

For eligible livestock contract growers, the payment rate is based on 75 percent of the average income loss sustained by the contract grower with respect to the dead livestock. USDA will reduce a contract grower's LIP payment by the amount of monetary compensation they receive from their contractor for the loss of income suffered from the death of livestock under contract.

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. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may 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. FSA will also be available to complete an on-site inspection of the livestock deaths for a fee, at the producer's request, within one week of the deaths.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, FSA will accept reliable records in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records as proof of death. Reliable records may include contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the adverse weather event, pictures(s) with a date, brand inspection records, etc. FSA will also accept certifications of livestock deaths by third parties on Form FSA-926 if the livestock owner or contract grower 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.

Formatted Table