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County Committee Members: John Hertlein-Chairperson, Francis Scheve-Chairperson,
Marian Jones-Member, Phil Kirk-Member, John Soyez-Member

2010 DCP SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. Advance payments (22% of direct payment) may be requested at the time of signup. **Please call the office to set up an appointment.** This would be a good time to report your wheat acres also. If reporting wheat, please bring your planting dates with you.

ACRE

An optional program to DCP is the ACRE Program which provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the counter cyclical payments under DCP which is based only on price. Enrollment in the ACRE program is irrevocable and must be agreed to by all producers on the farm. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled through the 2012 crop year. ACRE payments are issued only when both state and farm revenues have incurred a loss.

SURE

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program is available for crop losses due to reduced production, reduced quality on certain crops and prevented planted acres. Qualifying loss is a 10% production loss because of a natural disaster in a Secretary designated county or contiguous county, or a 50% production loss in non designated county. Lyon and Chase counties fall into the 50% production loss category for 2008. Insurable crops must be insured and non insurable crops must have NAP coverage to be eligible for SURE.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by an adverse weather event. Eligible weather events include extreme heat, extreme cold, blizzards, tornadoes, flood and lightning.

CROP REPORTING

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. A total farm acreage report is required for producers interested in a Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program Payment, including grass acreage which the producer has an interest.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by **June 1 for small grains.**

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Notice of loss must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of death. Acceptable records include rendering receipts, veterinary documentation, or a measurement service by FSA.

Livestock inventory will also need to be established. This may be done with purchase tickets, vet records, financial statements or a combination of these. Eligible livestock includes cattle, swine, horses, sheep, goats and poultry.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME AND IRS DISCLOSURE

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. Ensure that the form is completed correctly and that the name entered on the form is how you file your taxes. Example: If you farm under a Trust, but file your taxes under your individual name, then you should record your individual name on the form (not the Trust). If all fields are not completed correctly, IRS will reject the form. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

COMMODITY LOANS AND LDPS

June 1 is the final date to request marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments for 2009 feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 2, 2010 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. Let FSA be your Lender of First Opportunity!

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- be 10 years to 20 years of age
- comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- be unable to get a loan from other sources
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

BE COUNTED!

FSA wants to encourage all producers to complete the census. We realize as more of our population moves to urban areas, rural communities feel the impact. There are fewer people to work the farms and ranches, fewer students in our schools, and fewer customers in local businesses. The census is used to determine the amount of funds a community receives to rebuild after a natural disaster. It is used to determine the number of seats a state has in the House of Representatives. It determines how over \$400 billion in federal funds is allocated to states and communities. The census is important; make sure your community is counted.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nomination period for the Lyon/Chase County Committee election is from June 15 to August 2, 2010. Ballots will be mailed in November and must be received at our office by December 6.

Producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 (southern 1/3 of Lyon County) and LAA 4 (Eastern 1/2 of Chase County) will be involved in this year's election.

COC members are a critical component of FSA operations and represent the producers of Lyon and Chase County.

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