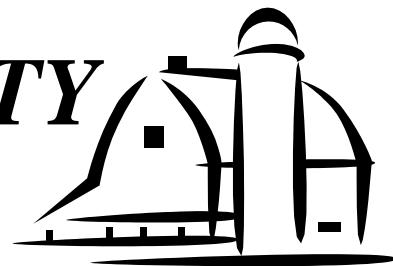


March
2010

NEOSHO COUNTY FSA TODAY



Neosho County FSA

124 W. State
Erie, KS 66733
620-244-3491
donna.sifers@ks.usda.gov

Office Hours

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed Legal Holidays

Office Staff

Donna Sifers, CED
Teresa Cox, PT
Marcia Fickel, PT
Renae Lucas, PT

Farm Loan Staff

620-724-6227
Robert White, FLM
Jason Love, FLO
Debora Bolin, FLPT
Barbara Brown, FLPT

County Committee

Teresa Bogner, Chair
Debra Cox, Vice Chair
Rex Houghton, Member

COC meets second
Tuesday each month
at 9:00 AM

FSA Web Sites

Kansas
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
National
www.fsa.usda.gov
USDA
www.usda.gov

2010 COC COMMITTEE

Ballots for the 2010 farmer elected committee were tallied on December 9, 2009. Debra Cox was elected to a three year term with Mike Duling as alternate.

Debra Cox lives northwest of Chanute where she farms with her husband Alan. They grow corn, soybeans, wheat and have a cow/calf herd. Debbie became full time in the farm operation ten years ago after working as a bank bookkeeper. She has served on the Neosho County Extension board, Big Creek Church board and is currently a 4-H club leader. The Cox's have three children ages 24, 22 and 20, with the youngest currently completing her final year of college.

The FSA Staff and committee look forward to working with Debbie in the upcoming years.

CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office.

REPORTING LAND USE REQUIREMENTS

A requirement of participating in FSA programs is to annually report land uses. Small grain reporting (wheat, barley, or oats) has a final reporting date of June 1st of each year. Coarse grains such as corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers have a reporting deadline of August 1st. Annual and perennial grasses, including CRP, clover, alfalfa, sudan, hayed, or grazing acres must also be reported annually.

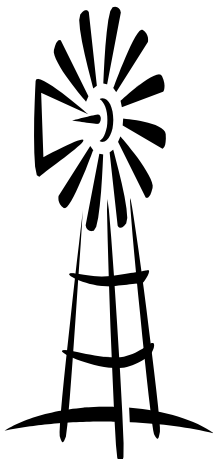


DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) continues until June 1, 2010. Forms and documentation must be completed or updated annually. Producers may sign up by visiting the FSA county office or by electronic services. You are encouraged to mark your calendar and allow ample time for enrollment. An appointment is not required, but may facilitate the enrollment process. Telephone the FSA office at 620-244-3491 to schedule an appointment or if you have any questions. Late filed applications to participate will not be accepted into the program.

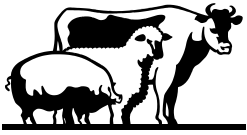
ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The forms (CCC-927 for an individual or CCC-928 for a legal entity) may be obtained online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> or from your local FSA and NRCS offices. This required form must be mailed to the Internal Revenue Service within 60 days of signing, but no later than June 15, 2010. Failure to return the form will result in an overpayment of all benefits received.



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.





KANSAS CITY MAILS 1099-G

Producers who have received payments from FSA during 2009, should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City Management Office. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS. If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to verify that the amounts are correct. Refunds are not reported on the CCC-1099-G. The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal payments to be offset for all delinquent Federal debt. Beginning in Aug. 2009, all FSA payments were sent to the Department of Treasury. If a producer's ID number matched the delinquent Federal debt; the Department of Treasury made an offset of the FSA payment. Producers may still see \$1 or more payment from FSA when these offsets occur, but a letter from Treasury should also be received explaining the offset.



INTEREST RATE FOR DOWN PAYMENT FARM OWNERSHIP PROGRAM REDUCED TO 1.5%

Down Payment Farm Ownership Loans are available for qualifying beginning farmer and/or socially disadvantaged applicants to help obtain financing for the purchase of a farm or ranch. The applicant must put down 5 percent of the purchase price. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 45 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible. The FSA loan rate will be locked in for the full 20 years of the loan, and currently the interest rate is 1.5 percent. For further information please contact the local Farm Loan Program office at 620-724-6227, Ext. 229.

RECORD CHANGES

Reporting record changes will help ensure benefits are issued timely and accurately. If you have a new bank or new account, a change in crop shares, a new owner or operator, have purchased or sold property, or moved - failure to report these changes could cause a non-payment or an erroneous payment of benefits. Payments are now issued from the Kansas City Management Office, and corrections to records or payments may take additional time causing a delay in issuing benefits.

SURE SIGNUP

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop quantity or quality losses. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For the SURE program, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest regardless of county or state location.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Often the first contact an office visitor has is Program Technician Marcia Fickel. Marcia began her FSA career in 1986 and has worked with Neosho County farmers and ranchers on most programs administered by USDA. Currently Marcia is responsible for Payment Eligibility, Compliance, Global Imaging, and other "behind the scene" programs. Marcia and her husband Doug live in Chanute & have three grown children and three grandchildren. Marcia enjoys scrapbooking and riding her Harley Soft Tail.