



**USDA** United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Cowley County FSA News



DECEMBER 2009



## Cowley County FSA

2118 East 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Winfield, KS 67156-3318  
TEL: (620) 221-2060  
FAX: (620) 221-4162

## Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

J O Brown, Chairperson  
Casey Woner, Vice-Chairperson  
Brad McMinn, Member  
Beverly Reiter, Advisor

*COC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. of each month @ 8:30 a.m.*

## Employee Information

Linda A Ellis, County Exec Director  
Jaimie Bannister, Program Technician  
Pamala Bain, Program Technician  
Barbara Hrencher, Program Technician  
Bonnie Miller, Program Technician  
Lesly Fair, Program Technician  
Denise Noonan, Field Assistant  
Lynn Reed, Field Assistant  
Gary Nuss, Farm Loan Manager  
Nick Bergkamp, Farm Loan Officer  
Kim Cerny, Farm Loan Officer Trainee  
Vickie Thiel, Program Technician  
Susan Long, Program Technician

Farm Service  
Agency online



FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.65/bu
Corn	\$2.08/bu
Soybeans	\$4.92/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.47/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.30/cwt

## RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to report the changes to the FSA Office **within 30 days** from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.



## Mark Your Calendars

**2009/2010 dates FSA offices will be closed:**

December 25 – Christmas Day

January 1- New Years Day

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day

## 2010 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. Producers can call for an appointment to certify and signup. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22% of the direct payment. The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. If participating in ACRE, a farm will not receive counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced 30%. The decision to enroll in ACRE is irrevocable and once enrolled; the farm shall be enrolled for that crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The deadline for enrolling in ACRE is also June 1, 2010 and FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

## Retirement Open House

After 31 years of service Barbara Hrencher will be retiring from the Farm Service Agency. The office will be honoring Barb with an open house Tuesday, December 29, 2009, 2-4 p.m. at the county office.

She grew up in Clark County where her dad is a second generation cattle producer. The home ranch consists of 8000 acres, 240 being in cropland. Her family has managed the Glenn Ranch since 1960 as a cow/calf operation. Her career with FSA has led her on a path that spans many counties. In 1978 she started as a temporary in Clark County. Then in April 1979 she became a permanent program technician in Kiowa County. She applied for and was offered a COT (County Office Trainee) position and then became County Executive Director in Riley County. In June 1993 she accepted the Barber County CED position. Then in December 2000 Barb transferred to Cowley County As a Program Technician where her final day with the agency will be December 31, 2009.

Please stop in on the 29<sup>th</sup> and wish Barb all the best in her retirement.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Low Interest Farm Loans Available to Those in Need

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has low interest farm loans available to those who are unable to obtain commercial credit through the local bank of Farm Credit Services. Loans for the purchase of real estate, livestock, machinery, or to pay operating expenses are available now through FSA at interest rates ranging from 1.5 to 4.75% (fixed). Loan funds are available now.

FSA loan programs are available to all eligible farm operators. FSA does have special loan programs for Social Disadvantaged Applicants, beginning farmers and rural youth ages 10 to 20 years old.

If you would like to know how you can take advantage of FSA Farm Loan Programs or would like additional details, please contact Gary or Nick at the address or phone number above.

## Direct Deposit

Payments made electronically using Direct Deposit has cut down on the number of missing or late payments. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Treasury will issue funds and this is called check centralization. The benefit of Direct Deposit is payment will be deposited within 2-3 days. If you do not have Direct Deposit a check will be delayed 7-10 days.

*Any changes to your account or financial institution will have an affect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.*

## Foreign Investors

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction **within 90 days** of the date of the transaction.

## 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 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

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.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

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.

## Wool and Mohair Loans and LDP's

Wool and mohair producers are reminded that the final date to apply for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments (LDP) is January 31, 2010 for their 2009 wool and mohair. This final deadline also applies to LDP's for unshorn pelts from unshorn lambs slaughtered in 2009.

Producers that do not retain wool or mohair on the farm when sheared may lose beneficial interest and should have filed a form CCC-633EZ Page 1 before shearing. Producers must file a CCC-633EZ Page 1 before they lose beneficial interest in the commodity and then file a CCC-633EZ Page 4 to apply for the LDP payment before the January 31 deadline.

## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses may only sign loan documents on behalf of each other if there is a Power of Attorney on file.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

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