

RICE County FSA News



FEBRUARY 2010

RICE COUNTY FSA

1480 W US HWY 56, RM 101
Lyons, KS 67554-9209
TEL: (620) 257-5184
FAX: (620) 257-2653

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Farm Loan Programs:

By appointment for Rice County visits:
(620) 669-8161

County Committee

Mark A Engelland, Chairperson
Eric D Kratzer, Vice-Chairperson
Jacob M Behnke, Member
Margaret Scheufler, Advisor

COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Rodney Ackerman, CED
Judy Borgen, Program Technician
Tammy Clark, Program Technician
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician
Margaret Chain, Program Technician
Connie Weber, Program Technician
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.67/bu
Corn	\$1.98/bu
Soybeans	\$4.91/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.35/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.59/cwt
Barley	\$1.80/bu

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.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

All farm reconstitutions and combinations must be accepted by the FSA office no later than June 1, in order to be effective for the 2010 fiscal year.

In the Spotlight

February 15, 2010 – Closed for Presidents Day

February 24 – Open house for Margaret Chain Retirement. 1-4:00 p.m.

March 15 – Final date to purchase NAP insurance on 2010 coarse grains (forage sorghum).

March 31 – Final date to request a 2009-crop loan or LDP on small grains and honey.

May 31 – Closed for Memorial Day.

June 1 – Final date to request a 2009-crop loan or LDP on feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

June 1 – Final date to sign up for the 2010 DCP farm program.

June 1 – Final date to report 2010 small grain acres (wheat, oats, barley).

On-going – Continuous CRP, Farm Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural

CONSENT TO DISCLOSE TAX INFORMATION

Producers should have received a newsletter from the Kansas State FSA Office recently informing you of the new Consent to Disclose Tax Information requirements.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service programs (NRCS) are subject to average adjusted gross income (AGI) compliance. Written consent is required from each producer to allow the IRS the ability to compare AGI's certified with FSA. **All producers MUST submit a CCC-927 (for individuals) or a CCC-928 (for entities) to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** within 60 days of being signed, and no later than June 15, 2010. Failure to file these documents may result in having to refund the 2009 and/or 2010 program payments.

Entities shall be responsible for ensuring that all partners, stockholders, and members (down to the 4th level of ownership) complete the CCC-927 or CCC-928 and submit to IRS within 60 days of the signature date and no later than June 15, 2010.

Tax ID Number and name on the form must match tax records and FSA records. IRS will not provide any actual tax data or dollar amounts to USDA. IRS will only send an 'indicator' to USDA to verify AGI Compliance.

PLEASE NOTE: POWER-OF-ATTORNEYS CANNOT BE USED for the CCC-927 and CCC-928. In addition, a person cannot sign for their spouse. The forms must actually be signed by the individual or authorized representative for the legal entity. If unsure about signatures, consult your tax accountant.

As with all government documents, these forms must not contain pencil or 'white-out' (i.e. Liquid Paper).

Forms may be obtained from this USDA Service Center, your tax accountant or on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks. OR you may use the form printed on the newsletter. Only IRS will maintain a copy of the complete form. **DO NOT mail the form to USDA, FSA, or NRCS.** FSA **cannot** mail these form to IRS on behalf of producers. Please mail them directly to the IRS. The IRS address (as noted on the form) is:

Internal Revenue Service-USDA
P.O. Box 24033
Fresno, CA 93779

2010 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) & ACRE program is underway. **Contracts on farms with no pending changes were mailed to the farm operator last November.** Operators will be responsible for making sure all applicable forms are properly completed and timely submitted. If you still have the contract, please obtain the necessary signatures and return to our office as soon as possible.

The 2010 program will be the same as 2009. Farms with bases of 10.0 acres or less are not eligible for DCP or ACRE unless owned by producers who meet the FSA definition of a socially disadvantaged applicant (SDA) or a limited resource producer. Shares of payments must follow the share and risk of planted crops as in the past.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using 83.3% of the base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Along with sign-up, producers will be asked if there are any changes to their farming operations (ie... changes in land owned and or operated, newly established entities such as Trusts, Inc., LLC's, etc..). All producers requesting payments will be required to complete a new CCC-926, AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) STATEMENT for 2010 and the new CCC-927 and /or CCC-928. Signup for the 2010 DCP program will end June 1. All signatures must be in the office by close of business on June 1. Late filed provisions do not apply.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County Committee election for Rice County was held in December 2009 in LAA #1 (Farmer, Eureka, Victoria, Pioneer, Lincoln, and Harrison townships). Jacob Behnke was elected to a three-year term. Jacob replaces Howard Behnke who reached the term limit for COC members. We would like to thank Howard for his 9 years of service to the Rice County FSA Committee.

MARGARET CHAIN RETIRING

Margaret Chain, Program Technician in the Rice County FSA Office, will be retiring from the agency at the end February, 2010. Margaret has been in charge of the Conservation and Price Support programs during her 25 plus years with FSA. We at the Rice County office wish her well during her retirement years.

The public is invited to an open house reception for Margaret to be held in the Rice County USDA Service Center on February 24, 2010, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

NEW OFFICE EMPLOYEE

Connie Weber has been hired to fill the Program Technician vacancy from the retirement of Margaret Chain. Connie grew up on a farm in the Bushton area. We are looking forward to her working here in the office. Welcome Connie...

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

All FSA documents must be properly signed, or payments will be considered improper and not earned. Make sure it is clear who you are signing for and that you have signature authority on file if signing for an entity or another individual. When signing for an entity or as power-of-attorney, make sure the word "by" is immediately before your signature. Some FSA forms now have the word "by" printed in the signature area.

TRUSTS AND ESTATES: All trustees must sign for a trust, unless the Trust document specifically states that only one trustee has to sign. If all trustees have to sign, then the trustees can complete an FSA power of attorney designating one to sign, or they may complete form CCC-901. All executors of an estate must sign for the estate unless all executors sign an FSA power of attorney designating one to sign.

ACREAGE REPORTS FOR 2010

We are now scheduling appointments for small grain acreage reports for wheat, oats, barley, triticale, and rye.

To collect program benefits, including loan deficiency payments, crop loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program benefits, SURE program and crop history, it is a requirement to report crop acres and pastures in some cases.

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program requires all cropland on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops, and fallow.

The final date to certify wheat, oats, and barley is **June 1**. Grass, corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, feed crops, and fallow acres have to be certified by **August 1**. Crops in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) **must** be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing.

If you have not reported your wheat acres, please call for an appointment as soon as possible. If you are planting oats, remember to also report those acres by June 1. With our tight budget and increased workload, **we most likely will not send out reminders.** Therefore, it will be the operator's responsibility to remember to timely file crop acreage certifications.

SURE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) is underway. Signup began Jan. 4, 2010, for crop production losses for the **2008 crop year**.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. 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.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, 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.

Producers must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation or suffer a 50 percent production loss on the farm due to a natural disaster. Ellsworth County is a primary disaster county; therefore producers in Rice County are eligible since the county is contiguous to Ellsworth. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov then click on Disaster Assistance Programs.

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.

In 2009, the U.S. Treasury began issuing 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 effect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.

"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."