



**District 7 - Barber - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray - Hodgeman -
Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Stafford**
April 2009

DCP AND ACRE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE
AUGUST 14

The deadline to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The DCP is an annual enrollment, similar to the past years. The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to: *forgo counter-cyclical payments; * accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. For more information on either program or to make an appointment to enroll should contact their local FSA Office.

Foreign Investors 90-day Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U. S. Agricultural land are required by Law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA Office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land

Rural Youth Loans

Youth 10 to 20 years old can gain valuable business experience by obtaining a Rural Youth Loan to establish and operate income producing projects in conjunction with participation in 4-H, FFA, or a similar club. Contact the USDA Farm Service Agency at the USDA Service Center for more details.

Buy-In for 2008 Insurable and Noninsurable Crops

To be eligible for several disaster programs under the Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Program (SURE), producers must obtain at least CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for noninsurable crops. Sales Closing dates for CAT and NAP have passed for 2008. A waiver was authorized to pay buy-in fees of \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 per producer in all counties. **For paying the buy-in fees, the final date is Close of Business May 18, 2009.**

County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that **every eligible producer participate** in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). FSA is seeking nominations and is encouraging participation of **ALL** eligible voters. The final date to nominate is August 3, 2009. For more information or to nominate, contact your local FSA Office.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000. The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

Beginning Farmer Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers. A beginning farmer is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all members in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Acresage Reporting Dates

Acresage reports are required for program participation in several programs. The final date to report acresages of wheat, barley, oats, and rye is May 31. May 1, 2009 falls on Sunday; therefore, producers can report acresages on June 1, 2009 as be considered timely filed. The final date to report corn, upland cotton, grain sorghum, forage sorghum, fallow, and CRP is August 1. Since August 1, 2009 falls on Saturday, producers may report on August 3. Producers should contact their local FSA Office for an appointment to certify crop acres.



Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call your local FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Kansas Primary Nesting Season

The primary nesting season for Kansas is April 15 through July 15. This is the period when disturbing the habitat is not permitted. Contact your local FSA or NRCS before starting any practice that might affect the habitat and contract eligibility.

Commodity Loans and LDP's

Loans are available for participating producers on commodities. Nine month Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) are available with the interest rate determined by the month of loan application and disbursement. Loan Deficiency Payments are available when the posted county price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. The final date to request a 2008 Corn, Grain Sorghum, or Soybean loan is May 31, 2009. As May 31 is a Sunday, producers may request a 2008 Loan on these commodities on June 1. The CCC-666 EZ must be completed prior to loss of beneficial interest. Contact your local FSA for details and current rates.

Offices Closed for Memorial Day

All FSA Offices will be closed on Monday May 25, 2009 in observance of Memorial Day.



Soybean Referendum closes May 29

Eligible producers may request a referendum, using Form LS-51-1, "Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum", at their local FSA County Office during the 4-week period beginning May 4, 2009, and ending May 29, 2009. If at least 10 percent (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one State) of the 589,182 eligible producers participate in the Request for Referendum, a referendum will be held within 1 year from that determination. If results of the Request for Referendum indicate that a referendum is not supported, a referendum will not be conducted. The results of the Request for Referendum will be published in Federal Register.

NEW FOR 2008 and FUTURE YEARS

A new ongoing disaster program has been announced with the 2008 Farm Bill. There are 5 different programs included. They are: 1. Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program - or SURE for short - which covers production and quality losses to crops. 2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) covers livestock grazing losses. 3. Tree Assistance Program (TAP) 4. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF) 5. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) covers livestock death losses due to an eligible disaster.

To be eligible for the first four programs, a producer must have all reported crops on his farms intended for harvest either covered by at least a CAT policy or a NAP policy. The SURE Program will be available to eligible producers on:

- farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties. Disaster counties are counties included in the geographic area covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration by the Secretary for production losses.
- any farm in which, during the calendar year, the total loss of production of the farm because of weather is greater than 50 percent of the normal production of the farm.

For SURE, a "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

SURE Program payments will be issued to an eligible producer in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee and total farm revenue. **Total Farm Revenue minus Disaster Assistance Program Guarantee = Payment 60 percent of Difference**

Socially Disadvantaged Loans Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"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."