



FSA FARM NEWS

SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Douglas County FSA Office
1217 Biltmore Dr
Lawrence, KS 66049
Phone: 785-843-4260
Fax: 785-841-1087

County Committee Meeting Date:
2nd Wednesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m.

Douglas County FSA Committee:
Jane Edmonds
Bill Leslie
Kennith Whaley
Johnathon Alley, CED

May 2009

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Douglas County FSA Office will be hosting informational meetings pertaining to the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The meetings are scheduled at the following locations:

Wednesday, May 27th
2:00 PM
United Methodist Church
704 8th St.
Baldwin City, Ks

Thursday, May 28th
7:00 PM
Douglas County Extension Service
2110 Harper St
Lawrence, Ks

NRCS and Douglas County Extension personnel will provide information on conservation, soil testing and cover crop topics. However, the primary focus of the meeting will be on the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. Program provisions provide that:

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.

The ACRE program was created 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. To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Producers have until Aug. 14, 2009, to make their decision for the 2009 crop. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Johnathon Alley at 785-843-4260 or by the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 or you may e-mail johnathon.alley@ks.usda.gov by February 15, 2007.

ACREAGE REPORTS ARE REQUIRED

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report 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 farm programs, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for which Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is purchased must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 1** for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by **August 1**. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the **June 1** and **August 1** deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit.

REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM

USDA will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act.

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at Farm Service Agency offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency county offices. Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county

FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county FSA office where the producer owns or rents land. Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 29, 2009; or if returned by mail, must be postmarked by midnight May 29, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 5, 2009.

USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one state.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for commodities. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office.

YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes loans of up to \$5,000 to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.

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.

QUICK REMINDERS

- Sign up deadline for the **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program** has been extended to August 14, 2009. Contracts with all applicable signatures must be on file by this date. There are no late file provisions.
- In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.
- County committees play a vital role in helping to ensure that FSA agricultural programs adequately serve the needs of county producers. Each year farmers and ranchers elect a member to the county committee. To learn more about the election process and the requirements to nominate or be nominated, come to the USDA Service Center for an informational meeting to be held June 10 at 10:00 a.m. This year's election will be held in Local Administrative Area #1.
- The Douglas County Conservation District will be accepting applications for fiscal year 2010 state cost share funds from June 1 through July 15, 2009. Interested parties should contact Program Coordinator, Jim Weaver at 843-4260, ext. 228 for more information. All applications will be ranked and funded according to the conservation benefits of the project.
- The Douglas County Extension Service has put together a publication about a variety of topics in relation to living in the country. To obtain a copy, access their site at www.douglas.ksu.edu or call 785-843-7058.

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