



Jewell County

FSA News



April 2009

Jewell County FSA Office

105 W. South St.
Mankato, Kansas 66956
(785)378-3731
(785)378-3568 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Executive Director

James W. Peroutek

County Committee

Beverly Porter, Chairman
Roger Kintigh, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Rannebeck, Member

COC Mtg. 2nd Thursday of the Month

Staff

Kristi Badger Pam Rice
Patricia Grout Janet Tyler
Temporary – Carol Harris

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
FSA Forms-www.sc.egov.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

AGI Limitation - the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$2.5 million from all sources is now a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the DCP program.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations. The AGI may also be waived if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

USDA and Treasury Department Combine Forces

– The USDA and Treasury Department have joined forces to combat payment fraud. This cooperation will implement reforms from the 2008 Farm Bill to ensure payments go only to those entities that are to receive them.

FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS

FSFL's are available for new grain or hay storage, in some cases added safety features, and increased capacity of existing storage. These 7-12 year fixed rate loans upon eligibility are available up to \$500,000 per loan.

NEW COMMODITY LOAN RATE REPAYMENT METHODS

USDA has implemented new loan repayment rate methods for commodities which apply to our area. After the day of the loan implementation the commodity loan can be repaid at any time during the loan period at a rate that is the lesser of 1 of the following:

- * Loan rate plus interest
- * The 30-calendar-day method
- * The 5-calendar-day method for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, canola, oil and non-oil sunflower seed.
- * The current method for pulse crops, other oilseeds, wool, and mohair.

The wheat repayment rate will be a reflection of 5 terminal markets, Corn 10 terminal markets, Sorghum 6 markets, and Soybeans 8 terminal markets. The rates will be posted daily based on the 30 or 5 day moving average. The loan repayment rates will be posted on the following web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=landing>

2009 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The final date to certify wheat, barley, oats, and alfalfa will be **June 1, 2009**. Most producers have initiated their certification process. If you have not initiated the certification process please do so shortly.

The final date to certify the balance of your crops (corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower, CRP, etc.) is **August 1, 2009**.

Producers failing to file by the deadline will be assessed a late filing fee.

2009 FARM PROGRAM DCP AND ACRE PROGRAM

The deadline for enrolling in the 2009 Farm Program DCP, enrolling in the 2009 ACRE Program, and adding pulse base acres is extended to **August 14, 2009**.

Signup for the 2009 ACRE Program begins in April. The base year prices and yields have been set for Kansas. Final details such as what evidence FSA may use for proven yields are not available. We hope to have final details and FSA staff training by the end of April.

Each producer will need to decide whether ACRE is a program they want to enroll in on each of their farm(s). A website from the Univ. of Illinois <http://www.farm.doc.uiuc.edu> provides a very good video explaining the ACRE program under the topic "Flash Movie Presentation on the 2008 Farm Bill". Local FSA offices also have a calculation sheet available for producers' to run ACRE benefit scenerios. Producers will need to do their own homework to determine whether ACRE is beneficial to their farm(s). ACRE is representative of a farms actual yield and the prices/yeild you feel will apply 2009 – 2012. Producers' who elect the ACRE program 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.

Eligible pulse acres may be added as base acreage. Contact our office if you have pulse crop acreage to add to your farm through 2012. The calculation of pulse base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from 1998 thru 2001 crop years. Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 thru 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible. Pulse crops are defined as: Dry peas with intended uses of Seed or Dry Edible, Lentils of any intended use, Large chickpeas of any intended use, and small chickpeas of any intended use.

CHANGE REGARDING ISSUANCE OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS AND LOAN PROCEEDS

Payment centralization has occurred which affects FSA payments, loan disbursements, and repayments. There will no longer be any paper checks issued at a county FSA office. All program payments and loan disbursements will be issued by the Federal Reserve Bank through direct deposit electronic funds transfer or through the U.S. Treasury when a paper check is issued. FSA will process all payments through the web-based National Payment System which will transmit the payment record to the Federal Reserve Bank or U.S. Treasury for processing.

If the producer has a direct deposit on file and the payment does not need to be issued jointly, the payment should be received in the producer's bank account within 2 days, those without a direct deposit will take 5-10 days for payment. *This change is why producers have been receiving a separate transaction statement for each farm and crop FSA payment.*

DUAL PURPOSE SORGHUM VARIETIES

Certain forage sorghum varieties considered dual purpose are eligible as grain sorghum for acreage credit and LDP benefit based on yield of comparable sorghum in the area. A listing of varieties is available in the FSA office. When certifying the acreage of the crop you would need to provide proof of the variety planted. (Invoice, tag, etc)

Reminders

June 1 – Final Small Grain Acreage Certification
August 1 – Final Spring Seeded Crop, CRP, and all other crop final acreage certification
August 14 – Final DCP Program and ACRE Program Signup
County Committee nomination period – June 15 – August 3
Jewell County Primary Nesting Season April 15 – July 15
April Interest Rates –
1.625% Commodity Loan
2.5% Farmstored Facility Loan

Record Changes – If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes as soon as possible.

Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum
May 4 – 29, 2009. Producers may sign at local FSA Offices.

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, audiotope, 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."

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

County includes 1925 acres during 2009 and 9400 acres during 2010. A general CRP signup is not Acreage coming out of the CRP program in Jewell planned for 2009.

Policy is now in effect for re-enrolling CRP land under the Continuous CRP Program (CCRP) or enrolling new land into the CCRP program. CCRP includes practices such as filter strips, windbreaks, quail buffers, and the Kansas Upland Game Bird (SAFE) project.

The SAFE program has a contract length of 10-15 years. The eligible size for enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres. Other provisions apply, contact our office if you have further interests in CCRP.

The needs and feasibility is preserved for a time on current CRP land being reenrolled into CCRP. The needs and feasibility criteria is preserved for the ground being re-enrolled if the ground is offered for enrollment before **June 1** of the year following the year the CRP expires. Expired CRP acreage offered for re-enrollment past the June 1 final date to re-enroll would then be considered "new land" and would need to meet all CRP practice and acreage eligibility; thus not eligible for immediate enrollment.

Expiring CRP Contract/ Early Land Destruction – Beginning July 1 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before CRP-1 expiration to prepare a seedbed for fall seeded crops. Producers need to file a request for early destruction and follow an approved conservation plan. No payment reduction will be assessed for the early destruction. A fall seeded crop (wheat) must be planted prior to Oct. 1.

Participants are permitted to apply chemicals to prepare certain CRP acreage for spring seeded crops. Spring seeded crop early destruction of the cover by any other means is not permitted prior to CRP contract expiration. An approved Conservation Plan of operation is needed.

The acreage approved for early release of CRP may **not be hayed** prior to the CRP expiration October 1.

CRP Managed Haying and Grazing – the following guidelines provide haying and grazing provisions. Please note the "exception" at the end.

The practice must be approved in writing prior to haying or grazing. A payment assessment shall be assessed based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental payment times 25%.

A burn with cost share, and haying or grazing may not be in the same year.

The acreage may be rented or leased for haying or grazing privileges.

Excluded CRP acreages are: Wildlife Food Plots, Wildflower areas, Filter Strips, useful life easements, and land within 100 feet of a stream or water body.

Managed Grazing – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 5 years, including years of emergency grazing release. Grazing is conducted from July 16 thru November 13 not to exceed 120 consecutive days or as otherwise limited by a management plan or conditions.

Managed Haying – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 10 years, including those years of emergency release. Haying is permitted on no more than 50 percent of each field or contiguous field once in five years. Haying is permitted from July 16 thru August 15. The hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from the final date to hay. The hay may not be stored on CRP acreage and the hay may be sold.

Exception – applies to existing CRP contracts providing that managed haying and/or grazing was approved on a CRP Contract's Conservation Plan **prior to** September 26, 2006. If haying and/or grazing was previously approved by this date the guidelines we have used in the past are grandfathered in. Below are guidelines for those in the exception status:

Managed haying or grazing is authorized 1 of every 3 years.

No haying or grazing during the nesting or brood season (April 15 – July 15)

***Please contact our office if you have further questions.*

