

Kentucky 2009 Annual Report

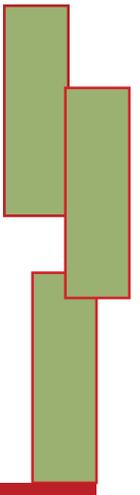
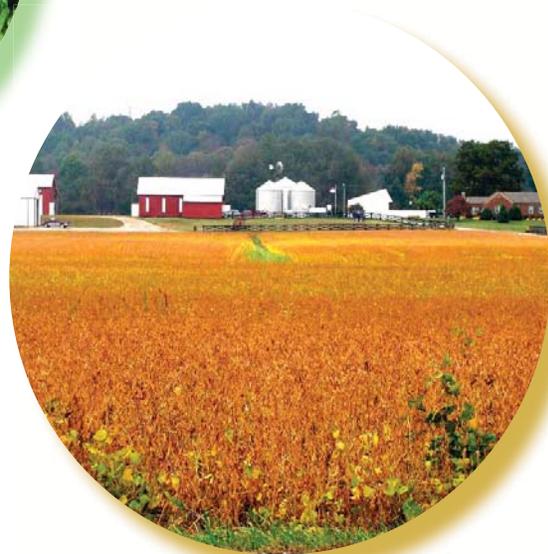


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Message from the State Executive Director

We are honored to present the 2009 Annual Report of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Kentucky. This has been an exciting and challenging year with many dramatic changes.



*John W. McCauley
State Executive Director*

The 2008 Farm Bill resulted in new opportunities available to our agricultural producers. We hope that the information included in this report will give you an overview of the programs FSA offered during the past year to better serve Kentucky's farmers.

Our primary mission is to provide customer-based support in helping our producers secure the highest possible financial assistance from USDA programs and to play a vital role in the economic survival of our rural communities. In Kentucky and across the nation, our farmers provide our food and fiber cheaper, safer, and more efficiently than any other country in the world. We at Kentucky FSA stand ready to serve the needs of our local farm community.

In Kentucky, FSA's dedicated team of professionals strive to manage and deliver commodity programs, conservation, disaster assistance, and farm loans and credit to improve the economic viability of agriculture in the Commonwealth.

KY FSA currently has 69 Service Centers, staffed by dedicated employees committed to serving customer needs in all 120 counties. County Office employees are the primary contact for FSA program delivery.

As we go forward, we will focus our commitment to serving our farmers and the agriculture community with the same quality we have for over seventy-five years.



Kentucky's FSA programs are delivered through U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Centers. The Kentucky State Office is located in Lexington.

Contact Information:

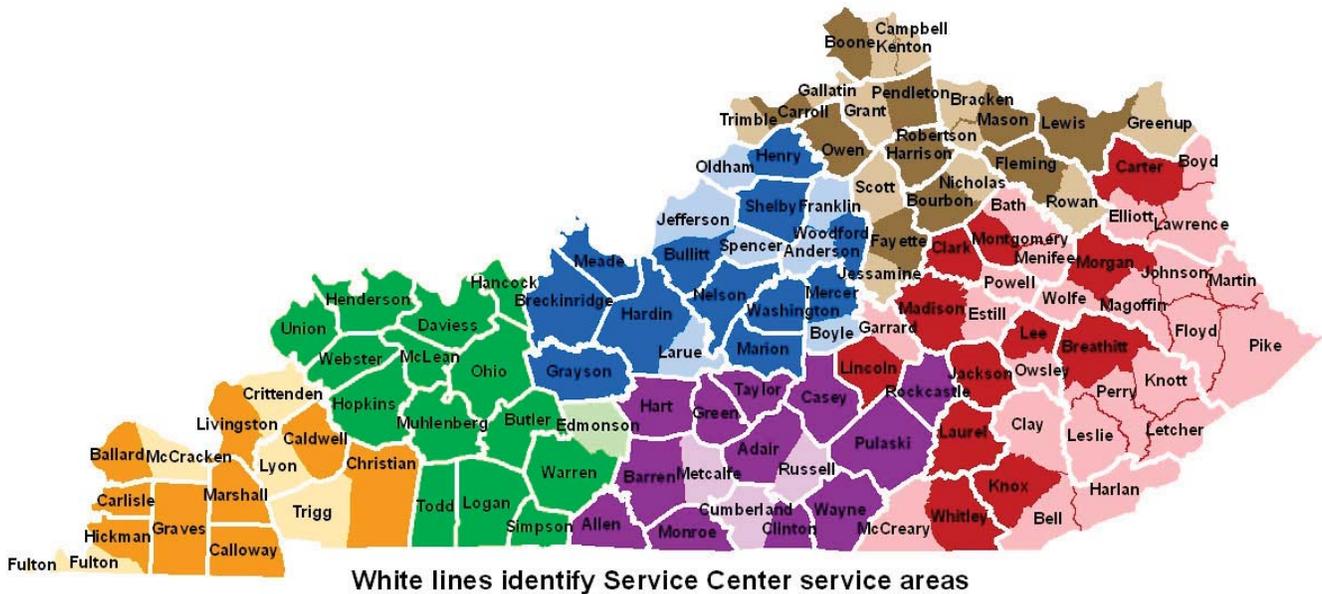
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Kentucky Agricultural Statistics

Kentucky is a diverse state from rolling hills to flat lands covering 25,388,000 acres with 83,000 farms covering 13,700,000 acres of farm land. Kentucky ranks fourth in number of farms behind Texas, Missouri, and Iowa. Farmland accounts for 54 percent of the total acreage in Kentucky. The average farm size is 165 acres and the average value of land and buildings on farms is \$2,850 per acre. (Source: Kentucky 2007-2009 Agricultural Statistics)

Kentucky’s farmers are producing some of the finest quality products in the world. This provides an opportunity for restaurants and retailers to provide high quality products to their customers while helping Kentucky farmers.

Kentucky FSA Service Center Locations



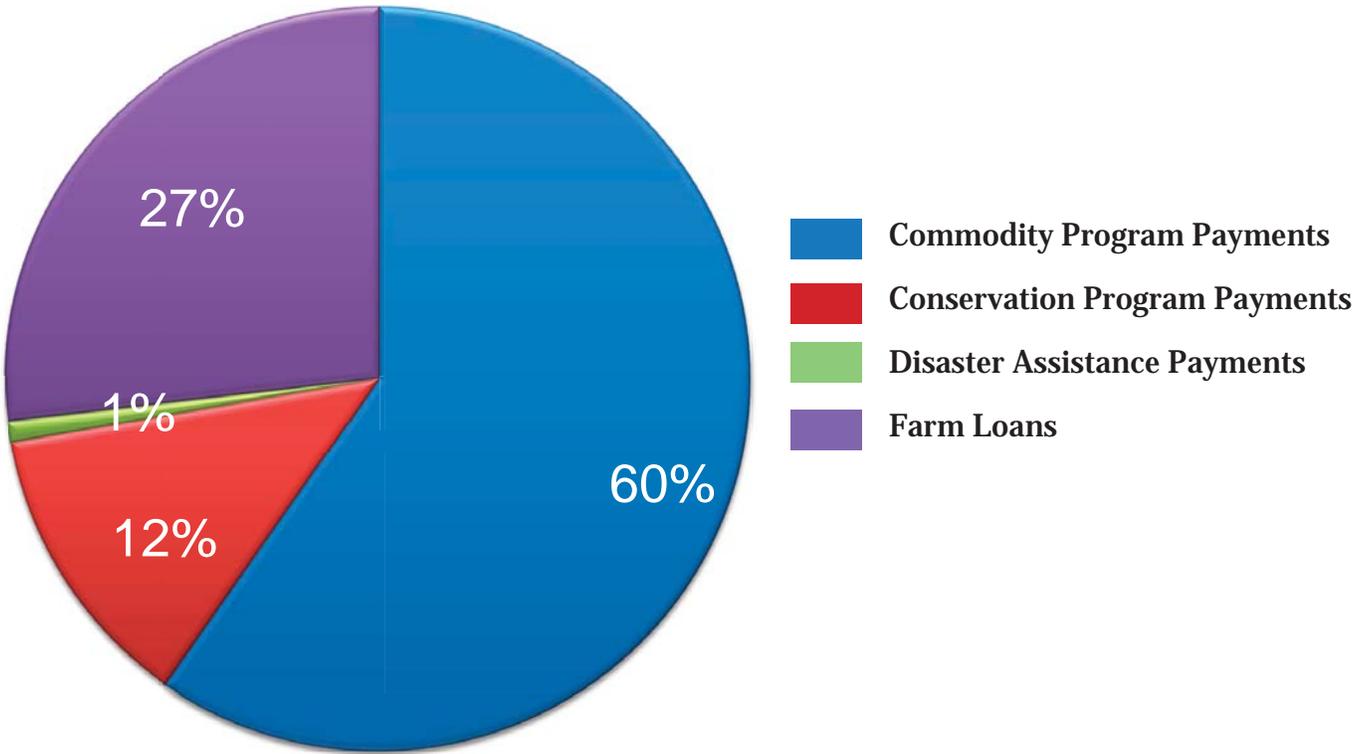
District 1	District 3	District 5
Service Center	Service Center	Service Center
No Service Center	No Service Center	No Service Center
District 2	District 4	District 6
Service Center	Service Center	Service Center
No Service Center	No Service Center	No Service Center

FSA has 69 offices in local USDA Service Centers, servicing Kentucky’s 120 counties.

Kentucky FY 2009 Program Payment Summary

The USDA Farm Service Agency delivered over \$16.3 billion in federal program payments to U.S. farmers and ranchers during FY2009. Kentucky agricultural producers benefited greatly from these program payments and loans by receiving in excess of \$446 million during FY2009.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Payment</i>
Commodity Program Payments	\$266.5 Million
Conservation Program Payments	\$ 56.3 Million
Disaster Assistance Payments	\$ 4.5 Million
Farm Loans	\$119.7 Million





Assist agricultural producers and landowners in achieving a high level of stewardship of soil, water, air, and wildlife resources on America's farms and ranches while protecting the human and natural environment.

Division Chief: Robert W. Finch

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program was authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide farm and ranch owners, operators, and tenants a voluntary long-term land retirement program. In 1995, FSA initiated "continuous" sign ups to allow certain high-priority conservation practices that yield highly desirable environmental benefits to be offered and accepted at any time.

Producers enroll in CRP and plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve water quality, control soil erosion and enhance habitats for waterfowl and wildlife. In return, USDA provides producers with annual rental payments. CRP contract duration is from 10 to 15 years.

Kentucky CRP through FY 2009

17,560 contracts protecting 375,404.9 acres
56,029.8 continuous non-CREP acres
3,387 wetland system acreage
93,211.4 marginal pastureland acres
33,218.0 tree practices acres

FY 2009 Payments Received

\$26,193,850 in rental payments <i>(Average rental rate is \$105.23 per acre)</i>
\$7,174,454 in cost-share payments
\$10,785,738 in practice incentives
\$2,199,101 for technical assistance

Kentucky farmers received in FY 2009 over \$46 million through CRP.

Continuous CRP Sign-up

Producers with eligible lands may enroll certain high priority conservation practices, such as filter strips and riparian buffers, at any time during the year without competition. Financial incentives include annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and many practices are eligible for an additional annual one-time payment.



These voluntary enrollments have effectively helped Kentucky agricultural producers improve the environment by reducing soil erosion and contamination, reducing non-point source water contaminants, addressing water quality issues and improving regional environmental health through biodiversity, wildlife

habitat enhancements and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and particulate matter.

CRP Continued

New CRP Practice: State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Kentucky land owners and operators in designated geographic areas were allowed to enroll in a new continuous CRP practice in 2008 titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Sign-up began on May 5, 2008, in all or portions of the 44 counties.

SAFE is a wildlife management tool that helps state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations and others address local wildlife objectives through habitat restoration. SAFE provides the flexibility to create and install conservation practices that target the specific need of high-value wildlife species. FSA provides SAFE participants with rental payments, including any incentives, and cost-share assistance.

County		
Adair	Grayson	McLean
Allen	Green	Meade
Ballard	Hardin	Metcalfe
Barren	Hart	Muhlenberg
Breckinridge	Henderson	Nelson
Bullitt	Hickman	Ohio
Butler	Hopkins	Shelby
Caldwell	Jefferson	Simpson
Calloway	LaRue	Spencer
Carlisle	Livingston	Taylor
Christian	Logan	Todd
Crittenden	Lyon	Trigg
Daviess	Marion	Union
Edmonson	Marshall	Warren
Fulton	McCracken	Webster
Graves		

The Kentucky SAFE goals include:

- enrollment of 8,600 acres of conservation practices in the targeted area
- restoration of habitat for endangered, threatened and declining wildlife species
- reduction of soil erosion and sedimentation, improved water quality and wetland functions, and sequester carbon
- increase nutrient filtering capabilities and soil stabilization on cultivated lands
- observed increase in a suite of selected grassland songbird singing males and calling bobwhite males and bobwhite coveys
- establish grasslands that will provide diverse nesting and brood rearing habitat for various bird species
- to observe an increase in the relative abundance of relict darters, swamp darters, cypress minnows, dollar sunfish, and Indiana bats within the Obion Creek and Bayou de Chien watershed.



During FY 2009, 4,706 acres were approved under SAFE in Kentucky.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The ECP provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters, and to carry out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. ECP was implemented eight days after the January ice storms that left most of the commonwealth without power and telephone service.

Kentucky producers received \$10, 876,873 in FY 2009.



Division Chief: Robert W. Finch

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Federal/State and local partnerships implement projects designed to address specific environmental objectives through targeted CRP enrollments. In 2001, USDA and the commonwealth of Kentucky agreed to implement a CREP on a section of the Green River. In 2007 the project area was expanded to include all or parts of 14 counties (Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Russell, Simpson, Taylor and Warren).

For FY 2009, 498 CREP contracts were enrolled for 17,068.50 acres. This brings the cumulative total acreage to 101,303.4 , thus bringing to a close this part of the Green River CREP, as the 100,000 acre limitation has now been met.

CREP is Kentucky's largest conservation program with 3,135 contracts covering 101,303.4 acres.

FY 2009 CREP Enrolled Practices

County	Practice	Number of Contracts	Number of Acres
Adair	CP22 Riparian Buffer	48	1740
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Allen	CP22 Riparian Buffer	66	2424.4
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Barren	CP22 Riparian Buffer	17	629.4
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Butler	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat	9	230.9
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
	CP22 Riparian Buffer	30	950.8
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Grayson	CP22 Riparian Buffer	4	351.8
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Green	CP22 Riparian Buffer	49	1437.1
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Hart	CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting	79	2634.4
	CP22 Riparian Buffer		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Logan	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat	25	642.7
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Metcalfe	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer	11	442.6
Russell	CP22 Riparian Buffer	14	658.8
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buff		
Simpson	CP22 Riparian Buffer	17	445.1
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buff		
Taylor	CP22 Riparian Buffer	16	634.9
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Warren	CP22 Riparian Buffer	113	3845.6
	CP25 Rare/Declining Habitat		
	CP29 Wildlife Habitat Buff		
State Totals	All	498	17,068.50

State Totals by County

County	Number of Contracts	Number of Acres
Adair	305	7,447.90
Allen	210	7,276.00
Barren	164	5,290.40
Butler	105	4,036.70
Edmonson	207	6,104.10
Grayson	25	1,191.90
Green	442	13,829.80
Hart	440	15,298.20
Logan	229	9,081.60
Metcalfe	166	5,748.60
Russell	42	1,235.70
Simpson	82	2,755.80
Taylor	199	3,856.70
Warren	518	18,150.00
State Totals	3,134	101,303.40

CREP, continued

CREP FY 2009 Payment Summary

County	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate/Acre	Incentive Paid Per Acre	Total Estimated Cost-Share	Average Cost-Share \$/Acre
Adair	36	\$156	\$76	\$252,639	\$145
Allen	37	\$182	\$90	\$334,805	\$138
Barren	37	\$172	\$85	\$94,888	\$151
Butler	26	\$139	\$68	\$24,308	\$105
Edmonson	32	\$181	\$89	\$109,930	\$116
Grayson	88	\$171	\$83	\$39,353	\$112
Green	29	\$169	\$83	\$207,440	\$144
Hart	33	\$225	\$111	\$386,640	\$147
Logan	26	\$247	\$121	\$45,750	\$71
Metcalfe	40	\$149	\$73	\$73,890	\$167
Russell	47	\$143	\$69	\$97,493	\$148
Simpson	26	\$248	\$123	\$64,001	\$144
Taylor	40	\$171	\$83	\$70,645	\$111
Warren	34	\$225	\$113	\$456,200	\$119

Energy Program



Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) was authorized by Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended by the Title IX of the Food, Conservation, and Energy of 2008 Act (2008 Farm Bill). BCAP assists agricultural and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the amount paid for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF). BCAP also supports establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy through project areas and on contract acreage up to 5 years for annual and non-woody perennial crops or up to 15 years for woody perennial crops. This provision will be implemented in the future.



Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) was published on June 11, 2009, in the Federal Register. The proposed rule was published February 8, 2010. Public comments are being accepted through April 9, 2010.

Kentucky has 13 qualified facilities.



Commodity Programs Benefit Kentucky Farmers

Eligible farmers receive support through a variety of Federal programs. The core programs provides income support, with new payment and eligibility limits, for wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, oilseeds, and pulses through direct payments (except pulses), counter-cyclical payments, marketing loan assistance program, and new average crop revenue election payments.

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments -- direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm.

Kentucky has 2.5 million base acres enrolled on 42,027 farms.

2009 covered commodities:

COMMODITY	
Barley	Peanuts
Corn	Soybeans
Grain Sorghum, including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain	Canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, sun flower seed, including oil and non-oil varieties
Long grain rice, medium rice (which includes short grain rice) excluding wild rice	Upland Cotton
Oats	Wheat

Division Chief: Robert W. Finch

Direct payments were available for producers with eligible historic acreage of wheat, corn, barley, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, and other oilseeds. Sign up for 2009 DCP began on June 1 and ran through August 14, 2009.

For 2009, Kentucky had 41,337 DCP contracts down from 48,979 in 2008. Direct payments made in 2009 were \$53,440,307 compared to \$50,745,473 for 2008.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are



made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

Producers could elect to enroll in ACRE for the first time in 2009. ***Kentucky enrolled 466,418 ACRE Base Acres on 1,715 farms.***

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)



Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

For crop year 2009, Kentucky made 417 loans with a value of \$35,206,901.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Under the Commodity Credit Corporate (CCC) Charter Act, FSA may make loans to producers to build or up-



grade farm storage and handling facilities for eligible commodities. Storage structures for commercial purposes (the storage of grain for

others, whether paid or unpaid) are ineligible for loans, as are portable handling or drying equipment and portable or permanent weigh scales. The terms of a farm loan are seven years, ten years, and twelve years.

In FY 2009, \$1,872,579 were loaned to Kentucky farmers.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) MILC Program supports the dairy industry by providing payments to milk producers on a monthly basis when



the Boston Federal Milk Marketing Order Class I price for fluid milk falls below the benchmark of \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt.). The 2008 Farm Bill authorized MILC through September 30, 2012.

In FY 2009, KY MILC Producers received \$2,832,063.

\$160.9 Million paid to Tobacco Quota Holders and Producers



On Jan. 19, 2009, FSA began issuing the 5th round of Tobacco Transition Program Payment (TTPP) payments to eligible quota holders and producers. TTPP provides annual payments to tobacco quota holders and tobacco producers through 2014.

Producer payments for 2009 totaled \$44,804,576 and quota holder payments were \$116,156,055.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

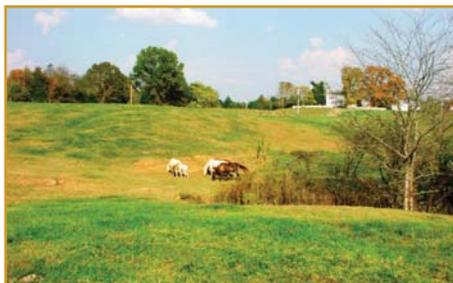
Division Chief: Robert W. Finch

The Farm Service Agency provides assistance for natural disaster losses resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornados, pest infestation and other calamities.



Livestock Forage Program (LFP): The LFP program provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands.

Sign-up for 2008 losses began on September 14, 2009, and ended December 10, 2009. Kentucky had 15 counties eligible for the 2008 calendar year. Currently no counties are eligible for the 2009 calendar year.



Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): The LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold.



Crop Disaster Assistance Program (CDP): The CDP provides benefits to eligible farmers who suffered losses from natural disasters and related conditions and who had insurance either through RMA or the NAP program in calendar years 2005-2007.

In FY 2009 Kentucky producers received over \$4.5 million in Disaster Assistance payments for losses incurred in calendar years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP): ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including losses because of blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically, LFP, LIP, and SURE.

Payments have not been made at this point.

*Disaster Assistance, continued***Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)**

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill), established a permanent Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, which includes programs for livestock as well as crop producers. The program for crop producers, called Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE), is linked to crop insurance.

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

Sign-up began on January 4, 2010, for producers to participate in the program if they suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year. This program will be implemented in FY 2010

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. This program covers noninsurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable.

In FY 2009, Kentucky producers received \$1,320,068 under the NAP.

GIS and Agriculture**FSA: GIS Technology for Modern Agriculture****Geographic Information Systems:**

- ▶ Measure land
- ▶ Identify crops
- ▶ Make digital maps
- ▶ Improve response to natural disasters

GIS helps FSA offices more effectively measure land by allowing computer generated maps to interface with databases that store information about the land. GIS gives local FSA offices tools to:

- ▶ Help producers continue to exercise sensible land stewardship.
- ▶ Provide quicker, more accurate information for decision-making.
- ▶ Reduce the amount of time a producer must spend in the local FSA office.

Common Land Unit: The Common Land Unit (CLU) data set represents all field boundaries. Each CLU is linked to a unique set of characteristics that include a farm number, tract numbers, field numbers, land use code, highly erodible land status, and field acreage. Kentucky is 100 percent certified.

Farm Loan Programs

Division Chief: Mitchell W. Whittle



The Lender of First Opportunity



Kentucky Farm Service Agency

Farm Loan Programs (FLP)

Lender of First Opportunity

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides loans, loan guarantees, and business planning to eligible farmers, ranchers, and others to promote, build, and sustain family farms in support of a thriving agricultural economy.

- Each fiscal year, FSA targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) and Beginning Farmers.
- Rural youth loans of up to \$5,000 may be made to eligible youth age 10 through 20 who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club or FFA, to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects.
- FSA's direct farm operating loans are used to purchase or refinance items such as livestock, farm equipment, annual operating expenses, and pay for minor real estate improvements.
- FSA's direct farm ownership loans are used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation.
- FSA's Guaranteed Farm Loan Program enables lenders to extend credit to family farm owners or operators who do not qualify for standard commercial loans.
- For additional information, visit your local FSA office or go online, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



FSA lends money and provides financial assistance to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms.

- Under the **Guaranteed Loan Program**, FSA guarantees loans made by conventional lenders for up to 95 percent of the principle. The lender may sell the guaranteed portion of the loan to a third party. For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA.
- Direct Farm Loans** are made by FSA with government funds. FSA services these loans and provides direct loan borrowers with supervision and business planning training. Farm ownership, operating, emergency, and youth loans are the main types of loans available under the Direct Loan program. Direct loan funds are also set aside each year for loans to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.
- FSA offers a **Joint Financing Loan Program** within its Direct Farm Ownership (FO) Program. If the applicant obtains 50 percent of the total funds needed from a commercial lender, the interest rate on the FO loan is fixed currently at 5 percent and the term of the loan may be as long as 40 years.
- FSA offers a **Down Payment Farm Ownership Loan Program** with a 20 year term and a rate as low as 1.5 percent.

Kentucky FSA Service Centers approved a total of 1,607 loans for \$119,698,000 to producers in FY2009.

Farm Loan Programs, continued

2009 Farm Loan Program Obligations
Summary by Service Center Location

Office	Loans	\$ Total
Columbia	74	4,652,790
Glasgow	77	7,006,650
Hardinsburg	82	8,026,060
Hopkinsville	96	10,290,550
Owensboro	98	4,922,990
Flemingsburg	86	3,395,660
Mayfield	79	15,016,150
Cynthiana	125	5,859,710
New Castle	65	2,541,180
Stanford	70	5,437,460
Russellville	88	11,777,940
Mt. Sterling	145	4,838,610
West Liberty	77	2,253,980
Somerset	99	7,865,340
Shelbyville	84	6,208,180
Bowling Green	61	3,484,510
Springfield	105	11,685,980
Monticello	96	4,434,670

Loan Principal Outstanding in FY 2009

	Number	Outstanding Value
Direct Loans	6,257	\$214,756,422
Guaranteed Loans	1,365	\$217,020,497
	Number	Loan Amounts
Direct Loans		
Farm Ownership	1,409	\$107,776,716
Farm Operating	4,360	\$92,137,730
Emergency	332	\$8,379,921
Economic Emergency	70	\$3,424,713
Soil and Water	71	\$279,624
Non-Program Loans	15	\$2,757,718
Guaranteed Loans		
Farm Ownership	791	\$170,298,977
Operating	573	\$46,685,413
Economic Emergency	1	\$36,087

FY 2009 Average Loan Size

Direct Farm Ownership	\$167,522
Direct Operating	\$34,091
Guaranteed Farm Ownership	\$327,061
Guaranteed Operating	\$154,729

Kentucky Farm Loan Program makes the top ten list in loans made for the fourth consecutive year

National Rank	Type	Kentucky Number
4th	Direct Operating Loans	1,238
10th	Direct Ownership Loans	113
6th	All (Direct and Guaranteed) Loans	1,607
3rd	Youth Loans	207
7th	All Beginning Farmer Loans	627
5th	All Socially Disadvantaged Loans	228

OUTREACH

In our ongoing outreach effort, local FSA Service Centers have successfully developed partnerships with other USDA agencies and community-based organizations, to insure the delivery of farm programs and loan information to all agricultural community members, including those targeted groups of underserved customers (including women, minorities, and limited resource clients).

FSA employees work to build customer trust in FSA's ability to stabilize farm income, ensure compliance on farm programs, provide credit to farmers, and assist in recovery from disasters incurred in their farming operation.

FSA's outreach projects throughout the Commonwealth

Farm Safety: Morganfield Service Center FSA staff participated in a Farm Safety Day. FSA Service Centers regularly partner with community based organizations to sponsor local Farm Safety Days. The events are attended by farmers, youth, and community leaders. FSA works to promote farm safety and encourage youth involvement in the family farming operation. This is a great way to educate the community on the importance of farm safety and on what programs FSA has to offer.

Miss Kentucky (Morganfield resident) talked to the kids about eating healthy and exercising.



“Harvest of the Heart” The thirteenth annual food drive in Grayson County's USDA agencies collected and delivered over 2,800 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Community Alliance Food Bank which serves over 900 families per month in their food and nutrition needs.

The partnership effort included the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Grayson County Conservation District (GCCD), and the Rural Development Agency (RD). Approximately 25 community churches throughout Grayson County worked with these agencies.

National Farm Machinery Show: FSA participated in the 44th Annual National Farm Machinery (NFMS) show in Louisville, February 11-14, 2009. FSA was one of more than 850 agricultural exhibitors at the show filling the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center's eight interconnected exhibit halls totaling more than 1.2 million square feet of indoor exhibit space.

In addition to gaining hands-on access to the newest and most innovative products on the market, attendees also benefited from free seminars featuring some of the industry's top experts. Seminars ranged from marketing practices for farmers to fine-tuning crop production skills and risk assessment/management.

The National Farm Machinery Show is the largest indoor farm show in the nation and was attended by 306,706 from across the US, Asia and Canada.



Small Limited Resource Farmer Conference: This annual conference is sponsored by the Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Service (KSU) with support from state and federal agency partners. KSU is an 1890 land grant institute. The theme for 2009 was **Revitalizing the Small Family Farm in a Stressed Economy**. Approximately 165 farmers from 50 Kentucky counties and eight states attended the two-day conference. The conference allows small and part-time farmers to learn new strategies to be more effective and profitable in their businesses. Kentucky FSA was a financial sponsor of the conference.

**Kentucky Small,
Limited Resource,
Minority Farmers Conference**

Capital Plaza Hotel and Kentucky State University
Frankfort, Kentucky
November 17-19, 2009



**Revitalizing the
Small Family Farm
in a Stressed Economy**

Photo by Edwin Chavez

Sponsors

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For more information call 502-597-8905 or email ksu@ksu.edu

Outreach, continued

Website: Kentucky's FSA website is updated with the latest information on FSA's programs and services. This allows FSA to provide quicker, more accurate information to agricultural producers. Producers can find information on Interest Rates, Farm Loans, Farm Programs, Service Center Locations, and News Releases. Producers who conduct business online can access forms and submit them electronically saving travel time to and from the local FSA Service center. Customers can also sign up to receive KY FSA e-mail alerts.

Kentucky's FSA's website is www.fsa.usda.gov/ky.



County Committee Elections: FSA County Offices continue to promote diversity of nominees and members of the local County Committees. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in female candidates elected to the local county committee. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer.

Women in Agriculture: FSA employees participate in leadership roles at the state and local levels to promote participation in events sponsored by the Kentucky Women in Agriculture. The KY Women in Ag was formed in July of 2003, as a non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to empower women through education, involvement, and action. FSA's objective is to inform women involved in agriculture about FSA programs. FSA sponsored the event through Outreach program funding in FY 2009.



Left to right: Mary Mills-Turner, Helena Pitcock, Deborah Hill, Alice Beasler, and Dr. Bonnie Tanner.

Newsletters: The Kentucky State Office publishes a newsletter to provide FSA customers and stakeholders with the latest information on programs and services FSA has to offer. The Newsletter is mailed directly to all FSA producers in Kentucky. Local FSA Service Center offices provide newsletter inserts on local issues and use. The newsletter is also used as an outreach tool in their local community. Customers can sign-up to receive an electronic version of the newsletter. All newsletters are available on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/ky/Newsletters>.

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