



United States Department of Agriculture

# KENTUCKY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



# 2011 IN REVIEW

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### *Introduction*

Message from the State Executive Director.....	3
Kentucky Agricultural Statistics.....	4
2011 County Program Payment Summary.....	5

### *Conservation Programs*

All Conservation Programs .....	6-8
Conservation Reserve Program .....	6-7
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program .....	8
Total Program Payments .....	9

### *Price Support*

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).....	10
Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE).. ..	10
Market Assistance Loans .....	11
Farm Storage Facility Loans .....	11
Milk Income Loss Program (MILC).....	11

### *Tobacco Program*

Transition Payment Summary .....	11
----------------------------------	----

### *Disaster Assistance Programs*

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) .....	12
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) .....	12
Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)....	12
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)	12
Tree Assistance Program (TAP) .....	13
Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) .....	13

### *Geographic Information System (GIS) .....*

### *Farm Loan Programs*

Loan Program Summary .....	14-15
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### *Outreach*

State Summary .....	16-21
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Kentucky's FSA programs are delivered through U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Centers. The Kentucky State Office is located in Lexington.

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## *Message from the State Executive Director*



*John W. McCauley*  
*State Executive Director*

**I**t is an honor to present the 2011 accomplishments of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky. The information in this report will give an overview of the programs and services offered to our farmers this past year.

As 2011 came to a close and the new year began, we can reflect on the challenges and success stories within the agricultural community and the FSA. It continues to be our job at the Farm Service Agency to be as effective and efficient as possible while providing the best service and program quality to our farmers. We truly appreciate the continued positive working relationships with our Congressional offices, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. We are proud of the state-federal partnership that we share in Kentucky on behalf of our agricultural producers.

Every day our farmers are faced with many challenges, and to their credit, they remain on the farm and provide for our citizens by producing and bringing to market the finest agricultural commodities in the United States. Further, our farmers continue to provide our food and fiber safer, cheaper, and more efficiently than any other nation in the world.

In 2011, our Farm Loan Program continued to grow as a national leader by achieving a "Top 5" ranking within FSA. We continued to set records by servicing more farmers, loaning more dollars and reaching out and building our Cultural Diversity. Whether we are working to help a farmer purchase that first farm or providing operating loans to buy farm equipment, livestock, repair or construct farm structures, these are all examples of how important FSA's Farm Loan Program is to Kentucky agriculture.

Our dedicated team of professionals in each of our FSA Service Centers located throughout the Commonwealth are committed to serving the farm community. As we reflect on our accomplishments, we must also look forward to determine how we can build on those accomplishments and better serve our farmers in the future.

## Kentucky Agricultural Statistics

Kentucky has a rich heritage in agriculture from the diverse eastern highlands to the Jackson Purchase in the western part of the Commonwealth. They have one common goal, which is to produce the highest quality food and fiber for the farm community. Kentucky is a diverse state covering 25,275,577 acres with 82,273 farms covering 13,993,121 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 164 acres and the average value of land and buildings on farms is \$2,850 per acre.

Kentucky's market value of agricultural products is \$4,824.56 million per calendar year. Live-stock and livestock products account for about half of Kentucky's farm income. Union county is the top producing county of both corn and soybeans in the state.

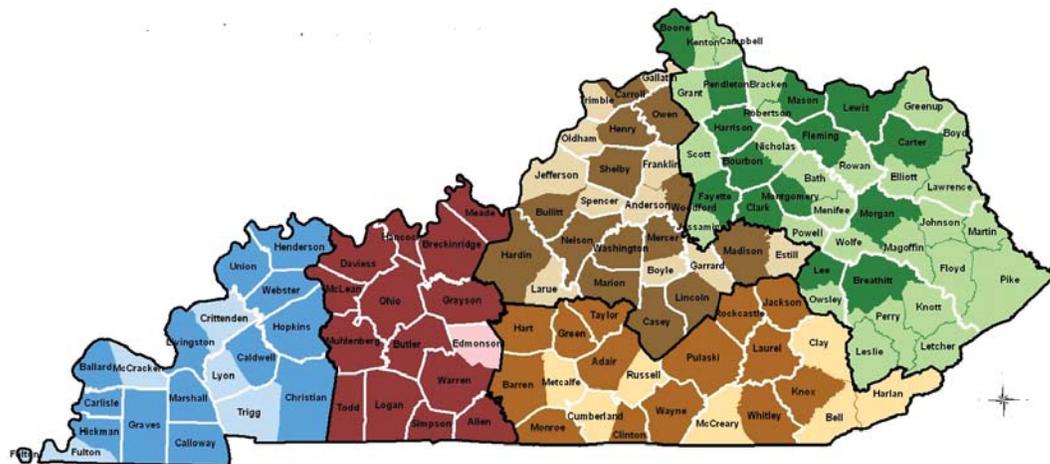
Top five leading commodities for cash receipts:

- 1st Broilers
- 2nd Horses/Mules
- 3rd Cattle and Calves
- 4th Corn
- 5th Soybeans

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## Kentucky FSA Service Center

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



White lines identify Service Center service areas

<b>District 1</b> Service Center No Service Center	<b>District 2</b> Service Center No Service Center	<b>District 3</b> Service Center No Service Center	<b>District 4</b> Service Center No Service Center	<b>District 5</b> Service Center No Service Center
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## Kentucky FSA 2011 Program Payments by County

The Farm Service Agency delivered over \$420.7 million in federal program payments to Kentucky farmers and ranchers during FY 2011. Kentucky agriculture benefits greatly from the tireless efforts of our dedicated employees and locally elected County Committees.

### Kentucky FSA Program Payments by County

Adair	\$4,973,909.85	Green	\$4,473,822.70	Metcalfe	\$2,663,157.36
Allen	\$3,273,487.33	Greenup	\$660,412.70	Monroe	\$1,587,067.88
Anderson	\$1,103,157.11	Hancock	\$1,310,465.10	Montgomery	\$1,694,629.79
Ballard	\$3,112,343.29	Hardin	\$5,739,835.89	Morgan	\$1,320,635.70
Barren	\$5,821,474.18	Harlan	\$6,413.30	Muhlenberg	\$2,737,328.26
Bath	\$ 1,865,746.07	Harrison	\$3,435,104.76	Nelson	\$4,591,436.80
Bell	\$10,045.50	Hart	\$6,543,259.05	Nicholas	\$2,176,598.67
Boone	\$1,265,169.22	Hopkins	\$2,909,452.10	Ohio	\$2,880,568.98
Bourbon	\$4,231,363.82	Jackson	\$998,055.16	Oldham	\$1,004,349.03
Boyd	\$24,361.70	Jefferson	\$389,672.30	Owen	\$3,397,218.76
Breckinridge	\$4,548,272.73	Jessamine	\$2,807,410.59	Owsley	\$580,611.30
Bullitt	\$612,876.26	Johnson	\$192,321.60	Pendleton	\$2,092,806.27
Butler	\$ 2,487,529.29	Kenton	\$464,674.16	Perry	\$22,176.40
Caldwell	\$3,850,536.49	Knott	\$495.00	Pike	\$140.00
Calloway	\$6,966,746.75	Knox	\$372,275.20	Powell	\$350,912.40
Campbell	\$273,554.44	Larue	\$4,827,979.86	Pulaski	\$4,733,451.45
Carlisle	\$3,273,713.39	Laurel	\$1,885,664.93	Robertson	\$711,464.98
Christian	\$14,837,284.64	Lawrence	\$220,355.70	Rockcastle	\$1,265,789.72
Clark	\$2,513,997.40	Lee	\$194,031.50	Rowan	\$447,320.90
Clay	\$799,510.45	Leslie	\$26,201.30	Russell	\$2,395,260.52
Clinton	\$1,315,448.02	Letcher	\$769.40	Scott	\$4,123,012.20
Crittenden	\$1,858,203.20	Lewis	\$1,794,239.18	Shelby	\$5,352,411.19
Cumberland	\$950,662.67	Lincoln	\$3,158,673.98	Simpson	\$6,079,197.28
Daviess	\$7,369,853.70	Livingston	\$1,813,613.10	Spencer	\$1,717,529.11
Edmonson	\$1,854,951.72	Logan	\$11,329,515.61	Taylor	\$2,873,858.50
Elliott	\$578,844.80	Lyon	\$1,516,044.11	Todd	\$7,606,609.21
Estill	\$612,751.80	McCracken	\$1,309,707.00	Trigg	\$4,361,644.29
Fayette	\$4,120,407.00	McCreary	\$94,156.50	Trimble	\$1,532,630.46
Fleming	\$2,908,971.38	McLean	\$3,973,687.77	Union	\$4,329,595.10
Floyd	\$971.10	Madison	\$4,172,829.44	Warren	\$9,985,612.97
Franklin	\$2,101,216.80	Magoffin	\$547,300.20	Washington	\$2,728,435.24
Fulton	\$1,806,329.00	Marion	\$5,569,676.56	Wayne	\$1,841,906.48
Gallatin	\$848,025.70	Marshall	\$2,279,697.60	Webster	\$3,981,596.67
Garrard	\$2,292,513.92	Mason	\$3,126,008.73	Whitley	\$435,180.50
Grant	\$1,996,550.20	Meade	\$1,646,152.89	Wolfe	\$691,877.10
Graves	\$11,072,858.38	Menifee	\$439,119.60	Woodford	\$3,822,277.93
Grayson	\$3,372,448.65	Mercer	\$2,625,966.13		

Does not include farm loans, commodity loans, or adjustments from previous programs.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



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.

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. The Conservation Reserve Program is the USDA's single largest, most effective environmental program.

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 2011*

<i>17,638 contracts protecting 358,155 acres</i>
<i>\$111.21 average rental rate</i>
<i>\$39,831 annual rental payments</i>

***In FY 2011 Kentucky farmers received over \$45 million through CRP.***

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### *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.

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### *Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)*

GRP is a voluntary program designed to protect grasslands from conversion to cropland. Producer rental payments provide an incentive to maintain pastures for grazing.

***In FY 2011 Kentucky producers received \$610,327.***

CRP Continued

## ***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). Forty-six Kentucky counties were approved for the SAFE program.

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.

### *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.



***Kentucky has 301 contracts covering 7,930 acres in SAFE.***

### *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.

***Kentucky producers received over \$3 million in FY 2011 for damage due to flooding.***



## 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).



FY 2010 was a year that was utilized for installment of the final CREP contracts and work on the monitoring processes. Through some minor contract modifications/acreage cancellations, the cumulative total acreage is 101,917.7, thus bringing to a close this part of the Green River CREP.

The success of the Green River CREP in this small rural area of south central Kentucky truly represents what this program was designed to do. This is evident with the accomplishments in the more recent years of the program and with the identification of the CP29 practice and its necessity for the Green River CREP. The enrollment data and conservation benefits speak for themselves.

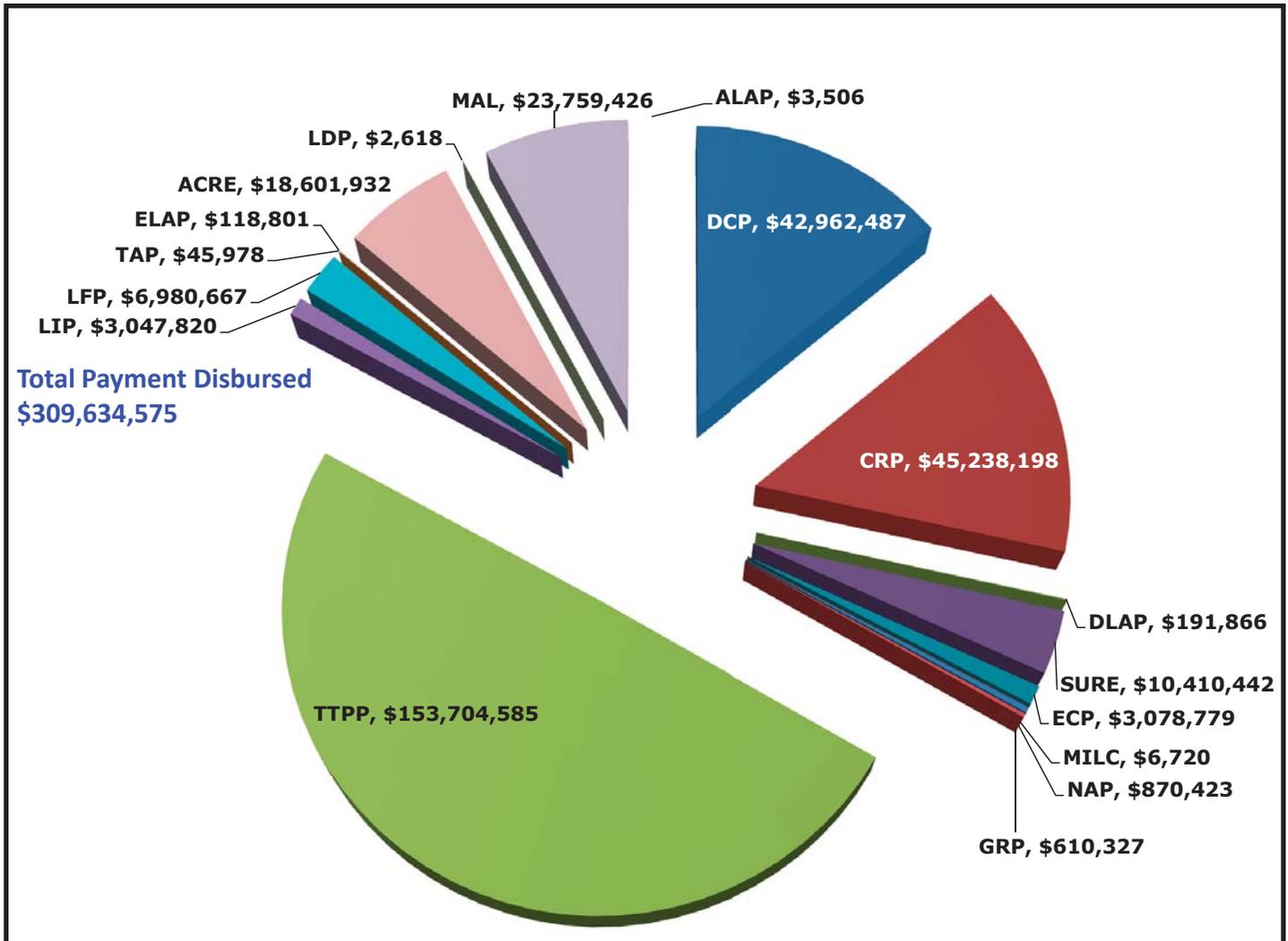
**CREP is Kentucky's largest conservation program with 3,134 contracts covering 100,917.7 acres.**

### CREP FY 2011 Payment Summary

County	Number of Contracts	Total Acres	Avg. Rental Rate Per Acre	Total Estimated Cost-Share	Avg. Cost-Share \$/Acre	Total Annual Rent
Adair	304	7,723	\$142	\$1,445,000	\$320	\$1,053,108
Allen	210	7,112	\$165	\$1,466,732	\$245	\$1,198,951
Barren	163	5,665	\$131	\$901,705	\$269	\$690,252
Butler	105	3,980	\$184	\$454,453	\$116	\$737,946
Edmonson	205	5,953	\$172	\$1,024,763	\$182	\$1,040,357
Grayson	25	1,179	\$177	\$197,718	\$148	\$208,047
Green	439	13,590	\$155	\$2,343,287	\$270	\$2,136,758
Hart	440	15,368	\$202	\$2,265,786	\$165	\$3,081,254
Logan	232	9,053	\$245	\$1,419,880	\$233	\$2,223,933
Metcalfe	163	5,121	\$138	\$1,053,025	\$203	\$780,112
Russell	41	1,175	\$142	\$192,556	\$232	\$165,412
Simpson	82	3,111	\$210	\$437,596	\$167	\$577,452
Taylor	205	4,044	\$141	\$639,865	\$301	\$539,107
Warren	516	17,610	\$219	\$2,738,714	\$182	\$3,971,133

## Total Program Payments Disbursed

FSA disbursed a total of \$309,634,575 in Program Payments to Kentucky producers in FY2011.





## Kentucky Farmers Benefit From Commodity Programs

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.**

**Direct payments** were available for producers with eligible historic acreage of wheat, corn, barley, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, and other oilseeds.

**Direct payments made in 2011 were \$42,962,487.**

### 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.

**Kentucky producers received \$18,601,932 in ACRE payments.**

2011 Covered 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
Pulse Crops	
Dry Peas	Chickpeas, large
Lentils	Chickpeas, small

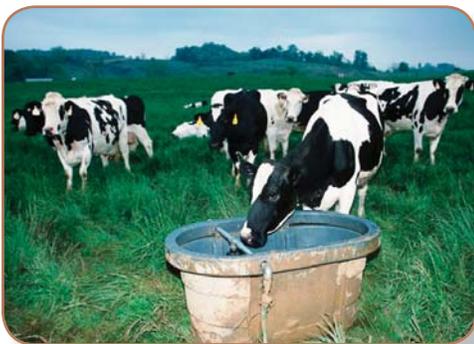
### *Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)*

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 a specified level. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized MILC through September 30, 2012.

***In FY 2011, KY MILC Producers received \$6,720.***

### *Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP)*

The DELAP Program provides a one-time payment



to assist dairy producers who have recently experienced low milk prices and high production costs. DELAP payments are in-

tended to help offset economic losses that producers have incurred.

***In FY 2011, KY producers received \$191,866 under the DELAP Program.***

### *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 2011, Kentucky made 313 loans with a value of \$23,759,426.***

### *Farm Storage Facility Loan Program*

Under the Commodity Credit Corporate (CCC) Charter Act, FSA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade 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 2011, \$3,474,993 was loaned to Kentucky farmers.***

### *\$153.7 Million Paid to Tobacco Quota Holders and Producers*



On Jan. 18, 2011, FSA began issuing the 7th 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 2011 totaled \$41,848,778 and quota holder payments were \$111,855,806.***

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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.

***In FY 2011, Kentucky producers received \$6,980,667 from the LFP.***

### **Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)**

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 November 14, 2011, for eligible producers who suffered crop production losses during the 2010 crop year.

***In FY 2011, Kentucky producers received \$10,410,442 for 2009 losses.***

### **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.

***In FY 2011, Kentucky produces received \$3,047,820.***

### **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)**

The ELAP provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

***In FY 2011 Kentucky producers received \$118,801.***



*Disaster Assistance, continued*

**Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

***In FY 2011, Kentucky producers received \$45,978.***

**Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)**

The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable 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 FY2011, Kentucky producers received \$870,423.***

***Geographic Information System (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 staff to more efficiently measure land features by allowing computer-generated maps to interact with databases that store information about the land (attribute data). GIS technology can help agricultural producers improve production history and farm planning through precision agriculture.

**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



## The Lender of First Opportunity

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.
- FSA has a Conservation Loan Program (CL) which allows FSA to provide direct or guarantee conservation loans to eligible borrowers to cover the cost of implementing qualified conservation projects.



### Loan Principal Outstanding in FY 2011

	Number	Outstanding Value
Direct Loans	6,423	\$262,402,269
Guaranteed Loans	1,480	\$255,432,947
	Number	Loan Amounts
Direct Loans		
Farm Ownership	1,461	\$135,414,287
Farm Operating	4,579	\$114,238,261
Emergency	268	\$7,554,645
Economic Emergency	51	\$2,325,764
Soil and Water	46	\$184,155
Non-Program Loans	15	\$2,537,177
Conservation Loans	3	\$148,000
Guaranteed Loans		
Farm Ownership	868	\$200,534,602
Operating	611	\$54,863,266
Economic Emergency	1	\$35,079

*Farm Loan Programs, continued*

Kentucky FSA Service Centers approved a total of 1,557 loans for \$131,433,447 to producers in FY2011. Kentucky Farm Loan Program makes the top ten list in loans made for the sixth consecutive year.

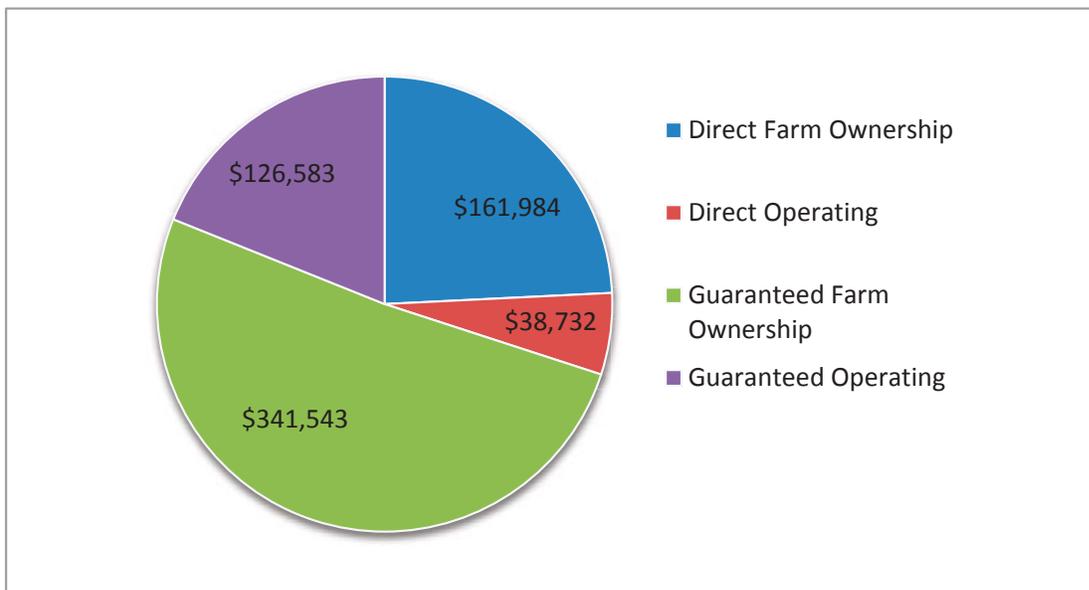
*2011 Farm Loan Program Obligations Summary by Service Center Location*

Service Center	\$ Total
Bowling Green	4,968,020
Columbia	3,272,200
Cynthiana	6,845,839
Flemingsburg	2,684,120
Glasgow	9,885,350
Hardinsburg	10,329,828
Hopkinsville	7,889,475
Mayfield	21,669,039
Monticello	3,485,570
Mt. Sterling	6,796,520
New Castle	3,036,130
Owensboro	5,366,890
Russellville	10,335,370
Shelbyville	8,855,726
Somerset	5,760,670
Springfield	11,913,415
Stanford	6,796,165
West Liberty	1,543,120

**Kentucky National Farm Loan Ranking**

- 1st in Youth Loan Dollars made - \$884,410
- 2nd in number Youth Loans made - 223
- 2nd in number Direct Operating Loans made - 1,114
- 4th in number all Socially Disadvantaged Loans - 203
- 5th in number all Beginning Farmer Loans made - 745
- 5th in number all Direct and Guaranteed Loans - 1,555

*FY 2011 Average Loan Size*



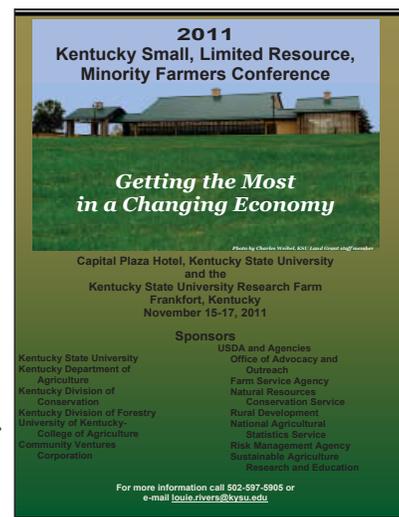
# KENTUCKY OUTREACH

In our ongoing outreach effort, local FSA Service Centers have successfully developed partnerships with other USDA agencies, state and local community-based organizations, farm elected committees, and stakeholders to insure the delivery of farm programs and loan information to all agricultural community members, including those targeted groups of under served 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 Efforts in Kentucky**

**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 2011 was *Getting the Most in a Changing Economy*. The conference allows small and part-time farmers an opportunity to learn new strategies in order to be more effective and profitable in their businesses. The conference serves as outreach to those individuals who normally do not have contact with Federal, State and local agencies or programs. Small farmers are selected to share their success stories with the attendees. Each year an outstanding small and or limited resource farmer in Kentucky is recognized for his successful farming operation. FSA was a presenter and an exhibitor of the conference. Approximately 175 farmers from across the Commonwealth and eight states attended the two-day conference.



**Farm Safety:** 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 through the FSA Youth Loan program. This is a great way to educate the community on the importance of farm safety and on the programs FSA has to offer.

**Career Days:** FSA participates in career days at local schools and universities, such as Kentucky College of Agricultural and Kentucky State University. The FSA offers a variety of challenging careers with a hands-on learning approach. Students learn about the occupational opportunities that allow people to apply their education and experience to making sure that all of us enjoy the benefits of producing and bringing to market the finest agricultural commodities in the United States.

**National Farm Machinery Show:** FSA participated in the 46th Annual National Farm Machinery (NFMS) show in Louisville, February 16-19, 2011. More than 850 exhibitors displayed their latest products at this largest indoor farm show in America. FSA showcased CRP, Farm Loans, and Energy.

One look around the National Farm Machinery Show, and you quickly picked up signs the farm economy is going strong. 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 was attended by 310,000 from across the US, Asia and Canada.



**Partnership Saves County \$10,000 while providing 8,700 pounds of food:**

A four-acre plot of land has saved one Kentucky county thousands of dollars while helping to feed hungry families. One garden and a partnership between the Versailles Farm Service Agency and the Woodford County Detention Center can meet the needs of the less fortunate. The People's Garden project brings people together to make a difference in their communities and also provides nutritious food to people in need.

Approximately 8,000 pounds were harvested from the garden. The majority of the food was donated to the detention center, helping to save the county approximately \$10,000.

John McCauley, State Executive Director, along with Congressman Ben Chandler, and James Kay, STC Member dedicated the People's Garden and placed official signage on the plot during the 47th Annual Woodford County Farm Tour.



## 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 the latest and most up to date 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 at <http://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. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. 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 of FSA programs that are available to them. The theme of this year's conference was "Our Farms to Your Home."



Seminars covered diversified and innovative farming, agriculture advocacy and innovative food systems. KWIA recognized the outstanding achievements of KWIA members and supporters for the past years. The Honorary Friend award was presented to Kentucky FSA who has supported and encouraged the mission and goals of the organization. Under the direction of John McCauley, State Executive Director, FSA continues to promote women as farmers and strives to provide programs that will enhance their chances

for success.

**Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Convention:** The Farm Service Agency showcased Farm Loan Programs and Disaster Programs at the 92nd annual Farm Bureau Convention. This is Kentucky's largest farm organization. This outreach effort allows FSA to provide our farm families and partners with essential programs and services in a timely manner.



**“Harvest of the Heart”** The fifteenth annual “Harvest of the Heart” food drive in Grayson County’s USDA



agencies collected and delivered 2,743 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Community Alliance Food Bank which serves over 950 families per month in their food and nutrition needs. The annual food drive is one of the significant annual efforts to replenish the shelves at the food pantry, but the need for food supplies is year-round.

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 23 community churches throughout Grayson County worked with these agencies.

**Feds Feed Families Food Drive:** Kentucky USDA Agencies partner together for the third annual government-wide Feds Feed Families Food Drive. USDA’s goal set by Secretary Tom Vilsack was 500,000 lbs. of food. The USDA dedicated team of employees contributed 1,791,393 lbs. of food. The Kentucky State Office collected 1,979 pounds of food that was donated to local community food shelters and the Salvation Army. FSA County Offices donated more than 1,600 pounds of food to local food banks and other charities in the community.



**Governors Office on Ag Policy:** USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan delivered the keynote address at the 2011 Governor’s Office Ag Policy (GOAP) Conference held in Bowling Green. The Deputy Secretary encouraged Kentucky’s farmers to help expand foreign markets and to out-innovate the competitors. Agriculture is the only export with a surplus and farm exports are projected to reach \$126.5 million for the current federal fiscal year. This is a great outreach effort for the producers in Kentucky.

John McCauley, State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency gave an overview of FSA programs at the afternoon breakout session. He stressed the importance of working with the Governor and his team at the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy. He also discussed Kathleen Merrigan’s leadership in Washington, D.C. and how her role is important to Kentucky’s farmers.

## Outreach, continued



**Kentucky Farm Women Field Day:** FSA participated in the 5th Annual Kentucky Farm Women Field Day which focused on the buy local/buy fresh food movement. Women associated with agriculture from all across the Commonwealth joined together for a fun, and educational day filled with lots of networking. Attendees rotated through stations to learn how to get involved in Kentucky Agriculture Organizations, how to have your voice heard in the political arena, information on animal health and nutrition, food preparation and farm safety. The evening portion of the field day featured a Kentucky Proud Meal and two panels highlighting Kentucky Women Agriculture Leaders and the

Louisville Farm to Table Program.

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## **Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference:**

FSA participates in the annual Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, which is held jointly with members of the Kentucky Vineyard Society and the Kentucky State Horticultural Society. This conference brings growers and researchers together to highlight topics of interest for vegetable growers in the state. Sessions often include talks on organic farming, vegetable production and farmers' markets. Research on new varieties and production techniques is presented as well as grower experiences. This outreach effort allows FSA to showcase programs and loans available to the local farmer.

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**Crossroads Farm-City Funfest:** The Mount Washington FSA Service Center employees, participated in the Crossroads Farm-City Funfest at the Sunny Acres Farm in Jeffersontown. Crossroads is a combined field day involving Jefferson and Spencer Counties. The outreach effort educated the local community on General Agriculture, Ag Safety, Ag Education, Ag Awareness, with an emphasis on rural/urban relationships.

**Newsletters:** The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Producers can sign-up to receive the electronic reminders at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>. The Kentucky State Office publishes an electronic newsletter to provide FSA customers and stakeholders with the latest information and deadlines on programs and services FSA has to offer. The newsletter is sent via e-mail to FSA producers in Kentucky. Local FSA Service Center offices provide newsletter inserts on local issues and program. The newsletter is also used as an outreach tool in their local community. All newsletters are available on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ky/Newsletters>.

### ***FSA Moving to Electronic Information:***

The Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Farmers and Ranchers now have a more efficient timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information. FSA is offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service. News will now be sent via e-mail right to producers home or farm office or Smartphone. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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