



United States Department of Agriculture  
**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**



**KENTUCKY**

**2012 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) .....12  
Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) .....12  
Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) .....12

### *Geographic Information System (GIS) .....13*

### *Farm Loan Programs*

Loan Program Summary .....14-15

### *Outreach*

State Summary .....16-19

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 2012 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 2012 came to a close and the New Year began, we can reflect on the challenges and success stories within the agricultural community and the Farm Service Agency. It is simple, in 2012, our mission was to help beginning farmers get started as well as to help existing farmers stay on the farm. In delivering our program services in commodity, conservation, disaster assistance, and farm loans, we continued to be as effective and efficient as possible while providing the best service and program quality to our farmers.

During the past year, our agricultural community was faced with flooding, drought, and storms, and to their credit, they remained on the farm and made every effort to provide the finest agricultural commodities in the world. Their extraordinary efforts in cultivating the land while serving as stewards of the environment is to be commended and will benefit future generations. Further, our farmers continue to provide our food and fiber cheaper, safer, and more efficiently than any other nation.

In 2012, our Farm Loan Program led the nation in both Direct Loans and Youth Loan Dollars. We finished second nationally in the number of all Direct and Guaranteed Loans. We continue to set records by servicing more farmers, loaning more dollars and reaching out and building upon our Cultural Diversity. Whether we are helping a farmer purchase that first farm or providing an operating loan to buy farm equipment, livestock, 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 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. McCauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## ***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 85,000 farms covering 13,993,121 acres of farm land. The average farm size is 164 acres.

Kentucky's market value of agricultural products is \$4,824.56 million per calendar year. Horses were the leading source of farm income for Kentucky farmers, followed by broilers (chickens), cattle, tobacco, soybeans and corn. Kentucky still leads the nation in burley tobacco production, even though the federal tobacco price support program was discontinued in 2005. The state is second in the U.S. in total tobacco production and is in the top 20 in corn, soybeans, winter wheat, hay, barley and sorghum. Kentucky is the leading beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River and is eighth in the nation overall. Kentucky is seventh in broilers and in the top 20 in goats, dairy cows, swine and chickens other than commercial broilers

### ***Top five leading commodities for cash receipts for 2011:***

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

### ***Top agriculture exports 2011:***

- Tobacco, unmanufactured
- Soybeans
- Corn
- Wheat

*(Source: Kentucky 2011 Agricultural Statistics, National Agricultural Statistics Service)*

## Kentucky FSA 2012 Program Payments by County

The Farm Service Agency delivered over \$528.3 million in federal program payments to Kentucky farmers and ranchers during FY 2012. Kentucky agriculture benefits greatly from the tireless efforts of our dedicated employees and locally elected County Committees.

### Kentucky FSA Program Payments by County

Adair	\$3,681,798.60	Grant	\$1,935,646.60	Menifee	\$437,014.70
Allen	\$3,126,162.02	Graves	\$11,624,837.81	Mercer	\$2,229,939.69
Anderson	\$1,040,879.90	Grayson	\$3,229,742.80	Metcalfe	\$2,757,477.09
Ballard	\$3,494,774.75	Green	\$4,687,536.28	Monroe	\$1,603,445.03
Barren	\$6,217,025.47	Greenup	\$560,494.60	Montgomery	\$1,720,038.12
Bath	\$1,923,324.64	Hancock	\$1,272,604.80	Morgan	\$1,300,664.10
Bell	\$4,271.50	Hardin	\$6,268,798.71	Muhlenberg	\$2,986,170.72
Boone	\$1,289,140.89	Harlan	\$5,201.30	Nelson	\$3,904,421.40
Bourbon	\$4,986,834.50	Harrison	\$3,571,913.73	Nicholas	\$2,430,827.93
Boyd	\$24,301.90	Hart	\$6,513,827.46	Ohio	\$2,334,234.80
Boyle	\$1,485,913.10	Henderson	\$3,676,713.70	Oldham	\$805,391.96
Bracken	\$2,561,654.01	Henry	\$3,796,330.05	Owen	\$3,437,180.54
Breathitt	\$431,210.10	Hickman	\$3,962,824.56	Owsley	\$564,214.40
Breckinridge	\$5,703,537.60	Hopkins	\$3,899,722.50	Pendleton	\$2,285,953.30
Bullitt	\$534,021.04	Jackson	\$994,576.12	Perry	\$20,169.00
Butler	\$2,851,799.47	Jefferson	\$340,271.80	Pike	\$140.00
Caldwell	\$3,027,141.35	Jessamine	\$2,790,103.50	Powell	\$386,617.20
Calloway	\$8,195,579.12	Johnson	\$503,789.01	Pulaski	\$3,107,186.76
Campbell	\$273,946.65	Kenton	\$464,674.16	Robertson	\$744,503.55
Carlisle	\$3,612,125.12	Knox	\$285,937.20	Rockcastle	\$998,545.26
Carroll	\$2,519,430.22	Larue	\$4,449,409.90	Rowan	\$432,644.40
Carter	\$949,734.54	Laurel	\$1,406,619.68	Russell	\$1,586,563.32
Casey	\$2,492,603.45	Lawrence	\$216,340.40	Scott	\$4,215,632.40
Christian	\$10,289,392.45	Lee	\$195,702.80	Shelby	\$4,970,765.64
Clark	\$2,457,943.10	Leslie	\$25,860.40	Simpson	\$4,654,368.83
Clay	\$779,542.60	Letcher	\$769.40	Spencer	\$1,596,074.22
Clinton	\$792,370.70	Lewis	\$1,761,445.50	Taylor	\$2,879,412.10
Crittenden	\$1,577,276.30	Lincoln	\$2,574,368.98	Todd	\$5,809,256.94
Cumberland	\$854,729.50	Livingston	\$2,218,224.30	Trigg	\$5,324,505.60
Daviess	\$7,621,324.33	Logan	\$13,181,066.72	Trimble	\$1,565,975.69
Edmonson	\$1,946,075.58	Lyon	\$1,531,056.28	Union	\$3,555,789.10
Elliott	\$562,797.70	McCracken	\$1,720,796.39	Warren	\$8,545,182.62
Estill	\$550,700.60	McCreary	\$20,745.80	Washington	\$3,035,821.44
Fayette	\$4,214,336.30	McLean	\$5,387,245.08	Wayne	\$1,171,186.18
Fleming	\$3,019,028.55	Madison	\$3,811,734.81	Webster	\$4,673,183.60
Floyd	\$900.10	Magoffin	\$537,676.60	Whitley	\$160,322.90
Franklin	\$2,181,215.70	Marion	\$5,556,770.67	Wolfe	\$685,803.40
Fulton	\$2,406,434.00	Marshall	\$2,324,306.29	Woodford	\$4,022,445.53
Gallatin	\$858,592.45	Mason	\$3,139,294.85		
Garrard	\$2,236,729.56	Meade	\$2,947,181.78		

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

## 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. 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 2012*

- 15,866 contracts protecting 304,573 acres
- \$123.09 average rental rate
- \$33,529 annual rental payments

***In FY 2012 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.

***Kentucky has 11,516 Continuous CRP Contracts covering 159,531.7 acres.***

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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 2012 Kentucky producers received \$603,044.***

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 319 contracts covering 8,289 acres in SAFE.***

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## ***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 \$427,507 in FY 2012 for damage due to drought and 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).

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.

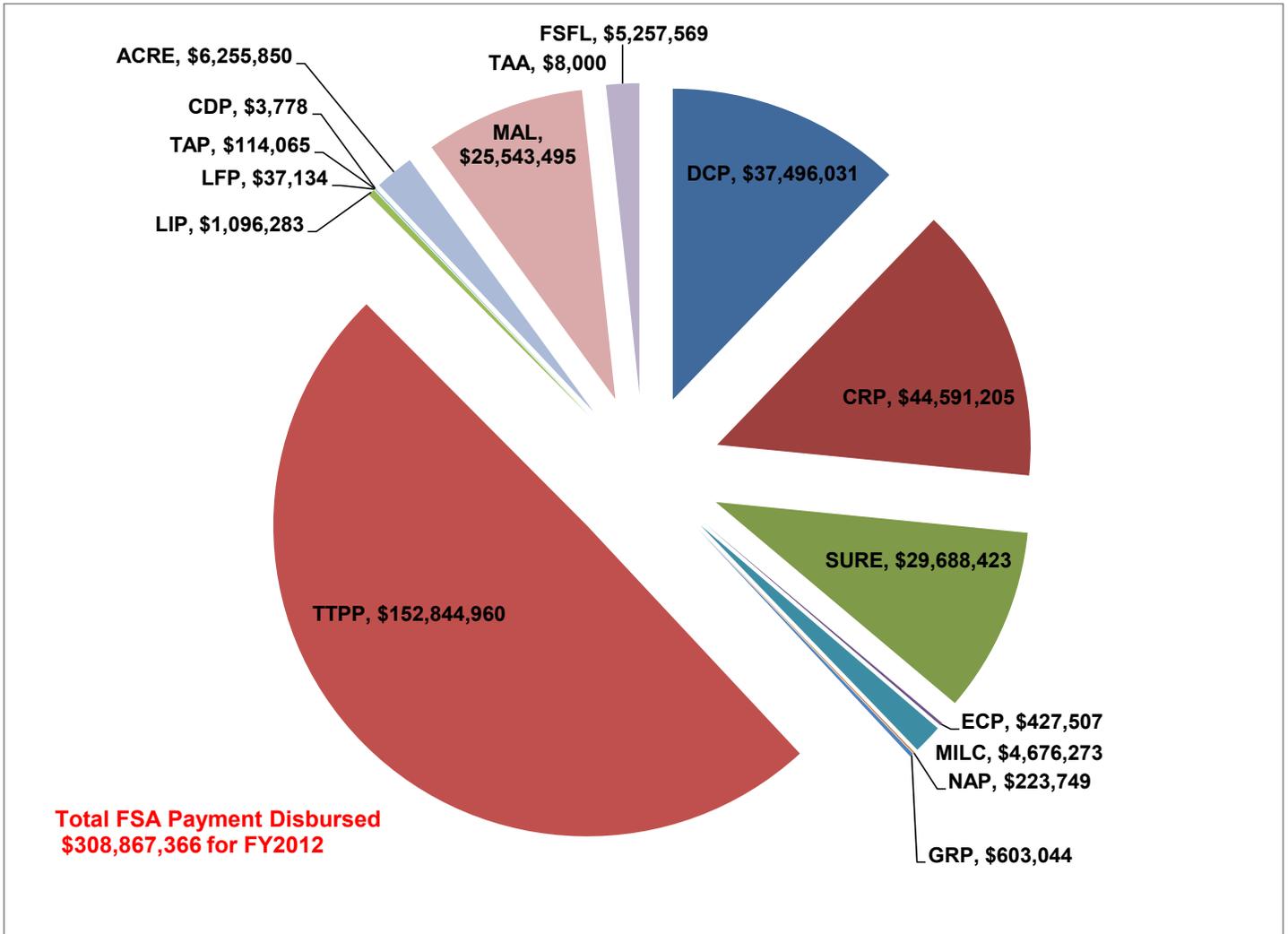
**CREP is Kentucky's largest conservation program with 3,085 contracts covering 99,594.5 acres.**

### CREP FY 2012 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	7,424	\$142	\$1,438,114	\$320	\$1,052,989
Allen	210	7,260	\$165	\$1,467,632	\$245	\$1,198,951
Barren	157	4,935	\$131	\$861,632	\$275	\$650,347
Butler	109	3,980	\$184	\$454,435	\$116	\$731,946
Edmonson	205	6,027	\$172	\$1,024,763	\$182	\$1,024,763
Grayson	25	1,179	\$177	\$197,718	\$148	\$208,047
Green	431	13,633	\$155	\$2,317,452	\$271	\$2,116,603
Hart	428	15,079	\$202	\$2,247,190	\$165	\$3,049,034
Logan	228	8,963	\$245	\$1,385,235	\$163	\$2,195,318
Metcalfe	158	5,555	\$139	\$1,042,365	\$205	\$772,247
Russell	41	1,164	\$142	\$192,556	\$232	\$165,412
Simpson	82	2,755	\$209	\$437,596	\$167	\$577,452
Taylor	191	3,541	\$143	\$603,100	\$318	\$505,740
Warren	515	18,093	\$219	\$2,734,417	\$182	\$3,964,266

## Total Program Payments Disbursed

FSA disbursed a total of \$ \$308,867,366 in Program Payments to Kentucky producers in FY2012.



## 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.

### *Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program*

***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 2012 were \$37,496,031.***

### *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 \$6,255,850 in ACRE payments.***



*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 2012, KY MILC Producers received \$4,676,273.***

*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 2012, \$5,257,569 was loaned to Kentucky farmers.***

*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 2012, Kentucky made 322 loans with a value of \$25,543,495.***

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*\$152.5 Million Paid to Tobacco Quota Holders and Producers*

On Jan. 15, 2012, FSA began issuing the 8th 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 2012 totaled \$41,133,763 and quota holder payments were \$111,333,578.***

## 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 2012, Kentucky producers received \$37,134 from the LFP.**

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**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 2012, Kentucky produces received \$1,096,283.**

.....

**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 FY 2012, Kentucky producers received \$223,749.**

.....

**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 October 22, 2012, for eligible producers who suffered crop production losses during the 2011 crop year.

**In FY 2012, Kentucky producers received \$29,688,423 for 2010 losses.**

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**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 2012, Kentucky producers received \$114,065.**

.....

**Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA):** In FY 2012, Kentucky producers received \$8,000

## Geographic Information System (GIS) and Agriculture

# FSA 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.

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 loan. 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 the current rate 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 a guarantee on conservation loans to eligible borrowers to cover the cost of implementing qualified conservation projects.



*Loan Principal Outstanding in FY 2012*

	Number	Outstanding Value
Direct Loans	6,766	\$287,957,867
Guaranteed Loans	1,539	\$277,934,506
	Number	Loan Amounts
<b>Direct Loans</b>		
Farm Ownership	1,460	\$146,827,252
Farm Operating	4,977	\$130,897,593
Emergency	220	\$5,792,481
Other Loans	109	\$4,458,541
<b>Guaranteed Loans</b>		
Farm Ownership	910	\$220,459,049
Operating	628	\$57,440,379
Economic Emergency	1	\$35,079

*Farm Loan Programs, continued*

Kentucky FSA Service Centers approved a total of 1,839 loans for \$135,714,957 to producers in FY2012. Kentucky Farm Loan Program makes the top ten list in loans made for the seventh consecutive year.

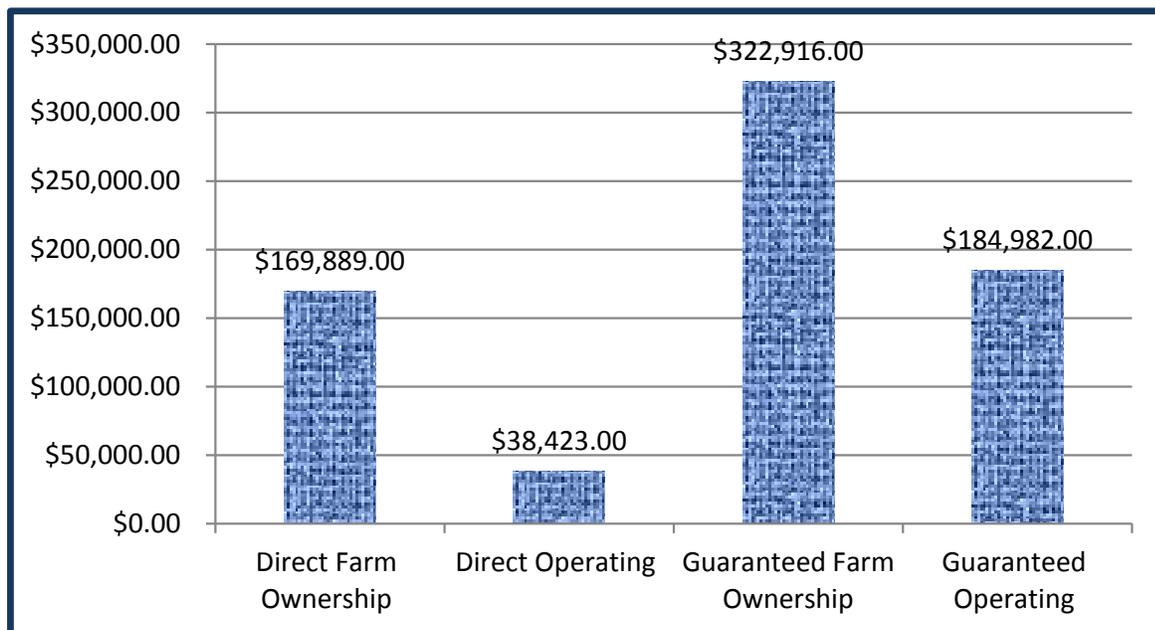
*2012 Farm Loan Program Obligations  
Summary by Service Center Location*

**Kentucky National Farm Loan Ranking**

Service Center	\$ Total
Bowling Green	7,425,790
Columbia	5,051,800
Cynthiana	6,503,675
Flemingsburg	1,533,050
Glasgow	10,546,440
Hardinsburg	6,939,083
Hopkinsville	9,158,417
Mayfield	19,107,645
Monticello	5,618,251
Mt. Sterling	7,095,350
New Castle	3,708,710
Owensboro	6,911,275
Russellville	9,491,686
Shelbyville	10,534,989
Somerset	6,665,300
Springfield	12,592,366
Stanford	4,933,070
West Liberty	1,893,060

- 1st in Youth Loan Dollars made - \$1,122,760
- 1st in number Direct Operating Loans made - 1,503
- 2nd in number Youth Loans made - 279
- 2nd in number all Direct and Guaranteed Loans made - 1,839
- 3rd in number all Beginning Farmer Loans made - 916
- 4th in number all Socially Disadvantaged Loans - 271

*FY 2012 Average Loan Size*



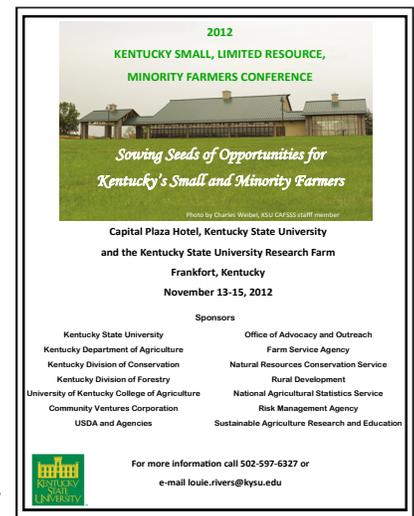
# KENTUCKY OUTREACH

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 2012 was **Sowing Seeds of Opportunities**. 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 275 farmers from across the Commonwealth and five 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.

## Outreach, continued

**National Farm Machinery Show:** FSA participated in the 48th Annual National Farm Machinery (NFMS) show in Louisville, February 13-16, 2012. Eight interconnected exhibit halls totaling more than 1.2 million square feet of indoor exhibit space and containing more than 850 agricultural displays makes this the largest indoor farm show in America. FSA showcased Farm Loans, and Farm Programs.

In addition to gaining hands-on access to the newest and hottest products and latest technologies in agriculture, 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 305,512 from around the world.

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**4-H Adventures in Agriculture:** Approximately 300 Lincoln County third graders were on hand to learn about the importance of agriculture in the community and their lives. FSA partnered with Extension in this outreach providing information regarding how crops are grown at the "CROPS" station.

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**Annual Farm-City Breakfast:** FSA partners with local community leaders, local business persons and area farm families to recognize the achievements and hard work of the local farm community at this annual community breakfast. Awards such as Farm Family of the Year, Farm-City Educator of the Year and Friend of Agriculture are presented.

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**Feds Feed Families Food Drive:** Kentucky USDA Agencies partner together for the annual government-wide Feds Feed Families Food Drive. The USDA dedicated team of employees contributed 2,772,825 lbs. of food. The Kentucky State Office collected a total of 698 lbs of food. FSA County Offices supported the drive and worked hard to get needed food supplies to their local pantries, churches,



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**"Harvest of the Heart"** The annual "Harvest of the Heart" food drive in Grayson County's USDA agencies collected and delivered 3,600 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.

## ***Outreach, continued***

***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.

***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.

***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.

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. FSA continues to promote women as farmers and strives to provide programs that will enhance their chances for success.

***Agricultural Dairy Days:*** FSA partnered with local Hart County community leaders to participate in Dairy Days. Adults and children of all ages participated in various "dairy" activities including cow milking and calling contests, milk-chugging and ice cream eating contests, as well as milk mustache photos. FSA presented producers with information about the MILC program as well as other FSA programs that are available. Approximately 500 people attended this event.

***Agricultural Outreach Meeting:*** FSA along with the Chamber of Commerce, NRCS, Conservation District and Extension Services hosted the 11th Annual Agricultural Outreach Meeting. Attendees enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship as well as received important information about today's agricultural industry and agency program updates. Eleven local businesses and organizations were represented at the meeting.

## ***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>.

**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>.

**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.

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