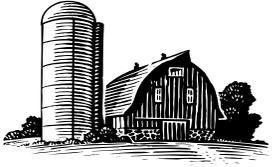




JULY 2009



# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5431 phone  
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

**County Committee:**  
Ken Foster, Chair  
Darlene Ferguson, Vice  
Chair  
David Dhooghe, Member

County Committee meets  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of  
each month

**Office Staff:**  
Kitra Cooper, CED  
Annetta Henry, PT  
Sally McKinzie, PT  
Dawn Thompson, PT  
Jim Dark, FLM  
Michelle Cerne, FLO

**Field Staff:**  
Leon Pearce  
Trey Thompson

## **AUGUST 14 DEADLINE TO SIGN INTO DCP/ACRE AND MAKE FINAL ACREAGE REPORTS**

Due to poor weather conditions that has hampered the completion of harvest and fieldwork nationwide, USDA has extended the final crop acreage reporting date to August 14, 2009. This coincides with the final deadline previously established for producers to sign into the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and/or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. After a farm has been initially enrolled into the DCP program, producers have until September 30, 2009 to return all required contract and payment eligibility form signatures.

This date has also been established as a final date to report any 2009 prevented planted crops. Prevented planting crop reports submitted to the office by August 14 will not be considered late-filed.

Compared to historical records, Labette County is about 85% complete with DCP signup. However, many acres of crops countywide still need reported, including all feed grains, CRP contract acres, grass for both seed and forage, and other feed crops. Complete farm crop acreage reports are required in order to maintain eligibility for benefits associated with the commodity subsidy and conservation programs, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Loan Deficiency Payments. Any crops reported to the office after August 14 will be required to pay a late-filing service fee of \$46 per farm.

Please contact the office as soon as possible for an appointment to complete either or both of these tasks. Producers with appointments are given first priority over those who stop in without an appointment. Call the office at 620-784-5431 to make yours now.

## **2010 COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS NEEDED BY AUGUST 1, 2009**

Nominations are currently being accepted for the upcoming Labette FSA County Committee election through August 1, 2009. The election will be held by mail in November 2009. The 2010 election is limited to Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 (Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland Townships). Any FSA agricultural producer who lives in this area and participates in FSA programs can be nominated to run in this election.

Nominees must also be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Nominees must sign Form FSA-669A, which must be filed in our office by August 1, 2008, in order to be placed on the ballot. Producers may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. The nomination form may be obtained from our office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. Further guidelines can also be viewed at this website.

## **SHOULD YOU CONSIDER "ACRE"?**

The ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) Program is an optional component of the DCP program and is designed to provide a revenue guarantee each year based on national market prices and state average yields for each commodity. ACRE election is by farm number, and may be selected any year through the balance of the 2008 Farm Bill, which ends with the 2012 crop year. Once selected, however, the option is locked in on that farm through the life of the farm bill.

ACRE has been analyzed over and over by ag economists and there are many opinions of the benefits of this program. As a help to local producers, an ACRE Informational Meeting is being held at Southeast High School Cafeteria in Cherokee, Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30pm. The program is being presented by Troy Dumler, K-State Extension Ag Economist. If you are unable to attend this meeting, K-State Extension's website has some good information available online. Go to <http://www.agmanager.info/policy/commodity/> and click on "2008 Policy". FSA also has an abundance of information available on the National website, including the established state yield and revenue guarantees. Go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on "Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program/ACRE".

Producers enrolled in ACRE will give up 20% of their Direct payments, all Counter-Cyclical payments, and take a 30% loan rate reduction. In exchange, they may receive an ACRE payment, which is triggered if the ACRE actual State revenue is less than 90% of the ACRE program guarantee, AND the producer's ACRE actual farm revenue is less than the ACRE benchmark farm revenue.

## **Note to Farm Loan Program Borrowers:**

If you are visiting an outlying county office (such as Labette) to have checks released, be sure to bring a copy of your settlement sheet(s) with you. This will assist us in making the releases and reduce the amount of time required.

**IMPORTANT** – If you have not provided all of your financial information including a current balance sheet, 2009 cash flow projections and copy of your 2008 income taxes (1040 with Schedule F) to Farm Loan Programs, we will not be able to complete the releases until that information has been received by them. You can leave that information here in Labette County or mail it to Farm Loan Programs @ 410 Peter Pan Road, Independence, KS 67301.

A Farm Loan Program Team member from the Montgomery County FSA is available in the Labette County office every Wednesday. If you'd like to make an appointment, please call the Montgomery County FSA at 620-330-1670.

VISIT OUR BOOTH  
AT THE LABETTE  
COUNTY FAIR  
JUNE 28 FOR INFO  
AND FUN!

For current information  
about FSA and agriculture  
in general, check out the  
following websites:  
[www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov)  
[www.usda.fsa.gov/ks](http://www.usda.fsa.gov/ks)  
[www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov)  
<http://agriculture.senate.gov>  
[www.oznet.ksu.edu](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu)  
[www.kansas.gov/kahd](http://www.kansas.gov/kahd)  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 8**—ACRE Program Info Meeting @ Southeast H.S.  
**July 17-19**—Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg  
**July 27-August 1**—Labette County Fair, Oswego  
**August 14**—Final day to sign into 2009 DCP/ACRE Program and report 2009 feed grain crops, CRP, grass acreage  
**September 7**—Office closed for Labor Day

## COMMODITY LOAN RATES

2009 commodity loan rates and target prices for major crops are listed below. More rates can be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov) under Price Support.

### Loan Rates

HRW Wheat--\$2.67  
SRW Wheat--\$1.84  
Corn--\$2.09  
Grain Sorghum--\$3.48  
Soybeans--\$4.99

### Target Prices

Wheat HRW—\$3.92/bu  
Corn—\$2.63/bu  
Soybeans—\$5.80  
Grain Sorghum—\$2.57/cwt  
Other Oilseeds—\$10.10/cwt  
Barley—\$2.24/bu  
Oats—\$1.44/bu



## NEW CROP LOAN REPAYMENT RATES

FSA recently revised the system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey. The new method provides more stability and reduces the effects that daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.** The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

## LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR INDEMNITY PAYMENT

Producers need to be aware of the eligibility requirements for the new Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), which is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. National normal mortality rates for adult beef cattle have been established at 1.5%. At this time, FSA forms and procedure for taking loss applications are not yet available. Recording your livestock losses is important to maintain eligibility when program funding becomes available.

Producers with livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should thoroughly document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers will also need proof of death, documented by such items as rendering truck receipts or certificates, veterinary records, dairy herd improvement records, photos, and third-party written verification.

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Labette County Conservation District has received funds to assist producers with the cost of installing enduring conservation practices for erosion control through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program and the Non Point Source program. Funding for the Water Resources Cost Share Program and NPS program is provided by the State Conservation Commission from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

The level of cost sharing will be 50 percent of the actual cost or county average cost, whichever is smaller, on terrace rebuilds, waterways, fencing, grass seeding, brush control, and ponds; and 70 percent of the actual cost or county average cost on new terraces and top soiling waterways.

Applications for cost share assistance will be accepted at the Labette County Conservation District Office at the USDA Service Center from June 30 through August 10, 2009. Producers who have highly erodible cropland fields needing erosion control practices installed are encouraged to apply for assistance. If funds are still available, a second sign-up period will be held later.

There is no fee for technical assistance through the Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Once cost-share funds have been depleted, technical assistance will still be available to landowners wishing to implement conservation practices on their land at their own expense. Landowners may contact the Conservation District or the Natural Resources Conservation District at (620) 784-5613, ext. 29, with questions regarding technical assistance or applying for cost-share funds.

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### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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