



Marion County FSA Office
301 Eisenhower Dr
Marion, KS 66861-1376

FSA: A customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented workforce, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture.

**JULY 2009
COUNTY NEWSLETTER**

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM – TELEPHONE: 620-382-3714

**DCP & ACRE SIGNUP
DEADLINE IS AUG. 14**

Enrollment in the 2009 Direct & Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election Programs (DCP, ACRE) ends on August 14, 2009. This is also the same deadline for producers to file a final planted acreage report or certification of all cropland on their farms (i.e. feed grains, CRP, hay acres, other land uses) for the year. If they have not done so already, producers are encouraged to call in to the county FSA office at 620-382-3714 to schedule a time saving appointment. FSA cannot accept any late filed applications.

ACRE is a new option for producers to choose as an alternative to the traditional DCP and its counter-cyclical payment system. ACRE provides revenue protection or guarantees when national average prices and state and farm based yields cause income to fall below established USDA benchmark levels. A July 8, 2009 USDA letter was sent to all producers which explained the ACRE provisions. This and other information available should be carefully reviewed by producers when making their program participation choices. Producers may elect to convert to an ACRE contract even if they had already enrolled and received advance direct payments under DCP. A decision to select the ACRE option for a farm is permanent through the 2012 crop year.

Another new and constant requirement for benefit eligibility in any farm program is compliance with average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and payment limitation regulations. All payment earning individuals and entities must certify to AGI limitations. Basically, adjusted nonfarm incomes that exceed \$500,000 over a 3 year average period do not qualify for payments.

Final direct DCP payments will be issued to all 2009 program contract shareholders in October. 2008 counter-cyclical type payments for wheat, barley, & oats shall not be made due to effective prices exceeding target price levels.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance legislation has created the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) which provides compensation to ranchers and producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates as a result of adverse weather events such as winter storms, tornadoes, lightning, flooding and extreme heat & cold conditions. These eligible death losses must have occurred within the range of Jan. 1, 2008 to Oct. 1, 2011. Producers have been permitted to signup for LIP payments since July 13, 2009.

To qualify for these benefits, specific standards must be met that relate to the filing of loss notices, payment applications and submission of adequately documented records that prove claimed losses can be considered eligible. Those who experienced 2008 livestock deaths have only until Sept. 14, 2009 to report losses and make payment applications. 2009 deaths that occurred up to July 13, 2009 must also file a 9/14 loss notice, but have until Jan. 30, 2010 to apply for payment. All other livestock deaths happening after 7/13/09 are subject to assuring loss notices are made within 30 days of when loss is apparent with payment applications to be done by 1/30 of the immediate year following the animal's death.

FSA encourages that a producer's loss records used to support LIP eligibility be verifiable and identify the kind/type/weight range of livestock. It is mandatory that livestock be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation that produces commodities (i.e. grain crops, hays, grasses, silages).

A variety of livestock is eligible for assistance that includes cattle (beef, dairy), swine, sheep, equine and poultry. LIP payments will be based on 75% of an established fair market value approved by USDA for that livestock category.

Staff and County Committee

Co Comm: Marvin Ratzlaff, Eldon Andres, Monty Stuchlik

Co Comm Advisor: Joyce Olsen

Co. Exec. Director: Bill Harmon

Office Staff: Wendy Hoffman, Linda McLain, Brenda Soyez, Amanda Brown, Diane Sams

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

BRIEFLY...

USDA agency offices will be closed for observance of the following National Holidays: September 7, Labor Day, October 12, Columbus Day, November 11, Veteran's Day, November 26, Thanksgiving Day.

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program supports the dairy industry by providing direct monthly payments to milk producers when the price of fluid milk falls below a Federal benchmark price. Once enrolled, producers are expected to submit monthly production evidence to be used to calculate payments. The maximum production that can be eligible for benefit is 2.985 million lbs per fiscal year.

The public is invited to an open house reception to be held in the Marion County USDA Service Center on September 29, 2009 for Program Technician Brenda Soyez who is retiring from her 32 year FSA career.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 'FSA COUNTS ON YOU'

Candidate nominations for the 2009 FSA county committee election will be accepted until August 3. Each year an election is conducted in 1 of the 3 Local Administrative Areas (LAA) to elect a 3 year term committee member. This year the election will be held in the LAA comprising the townships of Catlin, Centre, Doyle, Fairplay, Gale, Grant, Milton, Peabody, Summit & Wilson. Producers who are residents in these areas and participate in FSA programs may be nominated to serve. In addition to individuals, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women producers may also select candidates. The nomination form is available at any FSA county office.

Ballots will be mailed to voters on November 6 and to be accepted as validly cast must be returned by no later than December 7.

FSA committees are responsible for carrying out programs in full accordance with National and State policies and procedures.

2009 CROP LOAN SEASON

Grain production harvested from DCP farms in the 2009 crop year can be placed under a farm or warehouse stored Commodity Credit Corp (CCC) 9 month term loan.

County loan rates are as follows:

Wheat.....	2.69/bu
Barley.....	1.75
Oats.....	1.37
Corn.....	2.04
Soybeans.....	4.92
Grain Sorghum.....	3.39/cwt