



JUNE 2009



Mitchell County News

Mitchell County USDA Service Center

Mitchell County FSA
118 West Main
Beloit, KS 67420
785-738-5172
FAX: 785-738-2768
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

County Committee

Carolyn Finney
Barry McPeak
Jane Wallace

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of Month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff

Marilyn Seehafer PT
Darnell Winkel PT
Debra Stalcup PT
Brenda Hollaway PT
Jamie Powell CED

MITCHELL COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Mitchell County Committee (COC) election for this fall will be for the central one third of the county, also known as Local Administrative Area number 2. Nominations are encouraged from minorities and underrepresented groups and must be filed by August 3.

Election ballots will be mailed from our national contractor on or about November 6 and must be returned to the Mitchell County FSA Office by December 7 or postmarked by then.

Ballots will be mailed to the address on our files; however, ballots can not be signed by a power of attorney. If you receive a ballot for someone you have power of attorney for, send it to them to sign.

There will be an election informational meeting in the Mitchell County FSA Office on July 30 at 8:00 a.m.

ACREAGE REPORTS

To collect program benefits including loan deficiency payments, loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program benefits, and crop history, it is a requirement to report all crop acres and pastures in some cases.

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program requires **all cropland** on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops and fallow.

Grass, corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, feed crops and fallow acres must be reported by August 1. Crops in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) **must** be reported 15 days before haying or grazing.

If you have not reported your spring planted crops, do so as soon as possible. With our tight budget, we can not send out reminders. Therefore, it will be the operator's responsibility to remember to timely file crop acreage certifications.

If you wait to report acres until after wheat harvest or right after a rain, you will most likely have to wait in line.

FAILED CROPS/PREVENTED PLANTING

If you have a crop fail due to natural conditions, report it to FSA immediately by filing a Notice of Loss. A field visit is required before evidence of the crop is removed to allow proper acreage credit.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop. Before prevented planting credit can be approved by FSA, the same condition must have affected other producers in the area.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

We can not send producer information or maps to a third party. If FSA information is requested by a producer, we will mail it to the producer at their home address, so they can provide the information to whomever they desire. If you intend for the information or maps to be provided to a third-party, you must file a consent for release. This is an FSA document that must be used; it can't just be any written request.

EXPIRING CRP ACRES

If you have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres expiring this fall, you have several options. If you leave it in grass, you can hay or graze it after September 30. If the CRP contract was protecting base acres, those bases will be available to be enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical program next year.

Before you break it out, make sure you get a Conservation Compliance Plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. You may want to leave portions in grass such as draws or ephemeral gullies instead of building new waterways or leave other areas to grass due to low productivity. Before you spray or till, request NRCS to flag areas to be left in grass.

You can enroll small areas into continuous CRP practices such as filter strips, buffers and wild life feeding areas (SAFE).

You can enroll before the contract expires and it will take effect the day after the existing contract expires.

You must enroll before June 1 of the year following the year the contract expires or else you will have to break it out to qualify. **The SAFE practice requires the land around it to be broke before it is eligible regardless if before June 1 or not.**

You can enroll filter strips along creeks and streams and or quail boarders around all edges of the field. Other practices include contour grass strips and windbreaks. Some practices are eligible for a 15 year contract and additional incentive rental payments.

All CRP contracts now have "required" management practices such as prescribed burning, inter-seeding, or light disking (haying or grazing is not allowed on continuous practices).

Enrolling expiring CRP into a continuous practice will not qualify the acreage for the Signing Incentive Payment, unless it is enrolled after June 1 of the year following the year the contract expired, but that also means it would have to be broke out first.

If you enroll the outside edges in practice CP-33, Quail buffers, you must wait one year before you could offer the balance of the field in a general signup.

Conservation compliance means that you are following a Conservation Compliance Plan on all highly erodible acres you have an interest in. This includes expired CRP acres.

Non-Insured Assistance Program

Producers in the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report any loss in production within 15 days of the loss. With drought, a loss may not be known until harvest, so you would have 15 days after harvest to report a loss.

Acres must be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing. If you have coverage on forage sorghum, you must report the acres immediately after planting.

Those who have NAP must provide verifiable production evidence for the crop. If the production will be fed, an FSA measurement is required and sample bale weights acquired.

If you have coverage for a hay or seed crop, but decide to not hay it or harvest it for seed, you will need to request an appraisal as soon as you decide not to hay or harvest for seed and the appraisal must be completed before any grazing occurs.

Sept. 1 is the final date to purchase NAP on 2010 wheat grazing, ornamental and nursery crops.

2009 CROP Loans

The 2009 loan rates for Mitchell County are Wheat - \$2.64/bu., Corn - \$1.90/bu., Sorghum - \$3.35 /cwt, Soybeans - \$4.87/bu., and Sunflowers - \$9.66 /cwt.

The drop in the hard red winter wheat loan rate is due to the price rising more last year for durum and spring wheat than it did for hard red winter. All rates average \$2.70 nationally.

To be eligible for a farm stored grain loan, the bins can not be over filled and there must be enough headroom to walk around the inside of the bin and probe it. Bins must be numbered and the grain must be at or below acceptable moisture levels. Bins must also have permanent ladders attached inside and outside.

Those who want grain bins measured after wheat harvest may have to wait longer than in past years. With our budget, we can not use temporary help to measure as we have before.

FSA-FLP BEGINNING FARMER DOWNPAYMENT (BFDP) REAL ESTATE LOAN OPTIONS:

1. Beginning Farmers - 3 to 10 years experience & own limited number of acres.
2. Minimum down payment of 5%.
3. FSA loan - 45% of cost, not to exceed \$225,000 at 1.5% fixed for 20 years.
4. Commercial lender provides remaining funds & is allowed 1st lien on the RE.

FSA-FLP REAL ESTATE LOAN OPTIONS:

5. 50% of cost, not to exceed \$300,000 at 5% fixed interest rate for 40 years.
 6. 100% of cost, not to exceed \$300,000 at 4.25% fixed interest rate for 40 years.
 7. Guaranteed loans, not to exceed \$1,094,000 at commercial lending rates and terms.
- Interest rates are subject to change.

Also check on machinery, equipment, livestock or production loan options with the Russell FSA-Farm Loan Office at 555 S Fossil St., Russell Kansas, Ph. 785-483-5618.

Reminders	
	All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known.
	Contact FSA before breaking land, removing tree areas, removing field boundaries removing farm stored loan grain or planting any crop that might be a fruit or vegetable on contract acreage.
	Check your CRP Plan of operations and remember to get food plots planted if they are in your plan.
	Weeds/trees must be controlled on CRP acres.
April 15 to July 16	Kansas primary nesting season on CRP acres
July 3	Office Closed
July 31	Spring planted crops reported
August 14	DCP/ACRE Signup ends
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov



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