



Farm Service Agency

Norton County FSA
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Norton, Kansas 67654-0365
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Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Donald Lowry, Chairperson
Ivan Kingham, Vice-Chairperson
Dennis Leichliter, Regular Member
Melinda Harting, Advisor

County Executive Executor: Vesta Hobbs Program Technicians: Charlene Weskamp, Denise Schmitz, Lisa Rhodes, Sheila Engel-Temporary: Dellene Austerman

Farm Loan Manager: John Vogt Farm Loan Officer: Pat Bohl
Program Technicians: Susan Hillebrand, Nancy Hager

April 2009

Norton County Agriculture News and Deadlines



VESTA HOBBS
RETIRES
AFTER 32
YEARS
OF SERVICE

After 32 years of service with the Farm Service Agency, I have decided to retire on May 1, 2009.

My career with the Agency began in Norton in 1978 as a Program Assistant for the then named ASCS Office. At that time, I was responsible for the Compliance Program. Part of this job involved taking pictures of farmland in Northwest Kansas from a small airplane, by lying prone in the belly of the airplane and capturing photographs through a hole in the floor. I was fortunate to be able to schedule the flights and conduct training for the flight crews in the western half of Kansas.

Later my responsibilities became the Production Adjustment program, which was a farm program like our current Direct-Counter-Cyclical Program. Along with this, I was in charge of the Wool program.

In 1986 my career took a slightly different path within the Agency, when I went to work for the Kansas State Office as a County Operations Reviewer. The newly created position was designed to audit every program for accuracy all over the State. This was a wonderful educational experience because I learned every program FSA offers producers, and was able to see how these programs were implemented and managed in a wide variety of offices. Little did I know at the time how beneficial this opportunity was to be for me, for my career with the Agency was about to take another turn.

After spending three years on the road and living out of a suitcase, in 1989 I decided it was time to stay closer to home. That's when I became the County Executive Director (CED) for Graham County. I was able to work with some really good people in Hill City.

The commute to Hill City was pleasant, however when the CED position in Norton County became available in 1996, I decided it was time to come back to Norton where it all began. It is hard to believe I have been the CED in Norton for 12 years. Our office has great employees with a lot of experience, and it has been fun working with the Norton farmers again.

Thank you all for making this a very good 32 years. I have made friends with people all over the State, but the Norton and Graham County farmers are the best! My goal has been to see that everyone has the opportunity to participate in all the available programs, and the option to stop in at a time that is convenient for you. I will continue to live in Norton and look forward to seeing all of you from time to time.

Open House
Friday, May 1, 2009
10:00AM to 3:00 PM
Norton County Service Center
11506 Pineview Drive, Norton KS

Retirement Dinner
Saturday, May 9, 2009
6:00 pm
Norton American Legion
Reservations required by April 27th
Cost: \$12 per plate
Make checks payable to:
Vesta Hobbs Retirement Fund

FINAL GRAIN REPORTING DATES

June 1, 2009 is the final reporting date for small grain crops, wheat, triticale, oats, alfalfa, grass and CRP. All other crops need to be reported by August 1, 2009

DCP SIGN-UP EXTENDED

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program is extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin April 27th.

2009 NAP REQUIREMENTS

Producers with a 2009 NAP policy are required to provide their previous year's production the earlier of, the date the crop is reported or the final reporting date for said crop. All producers with a grass grazing policy must report their grass acres at least 15 days prior to putting cattle on grass. Producers with Alfalfa coverage whose stand is over 6 years old are required to request a paid measurement service to determine there is at 60% stand for it to be eligible for NAP loss.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Facility grain storage loans are available for qualified applicants. The maximum loan amount shall be 85 percent of the net cost. Annual payments are amortized over the term of the loan. A first lien is required on the real estate for amounts over \$50,000. The interest rate is the rate in effect the month the loan is approved.

### **CRP EARLY LAND PREPARATION**

If producer wishes to do early land preparation for fall seeded crops **May 1 through June 30 of the final year of the CRP contract then:**

- Early land preparation may be done if cover inhibits normal fall planting in final year of contract
- Submit request on CRP-1G Addendum anytime during final year of contract prior to destruction (All signatories to CRP-1 must sign)
- Develop approved Conservation Plan with NRCS or TSP:
  - if method of destruction creates an adverse environmental effect
  - for conservation compliance, if applicable
- A payment reduction is required to exclude rental payment for period indicated on CRP-1G Addendum, item 3 (Nonpayment period-no earlier than May 1 and no later than June 30)
- Fall seeded crops may be planted beginning September 1 state wide. A contract violation exists if planted prior to this date
- Haying, grazing or other commercial use of CRP is NOT permitted
- When needed to adequately prepare seedbed for fall seeded crops, haying is permitted but no commercial use – must pay for COC to verify destruction

A contract violation exists if a fall planted crop is not planted in a normal manner and may result in a refund of all CRP annual rental payments, plus interest, and liquidated damages.

### **Beginning July 1 of the final year of the CRP contract then:**

- Submit request on CRP-1G Addendum anytime during final year of contract prior to destruction (All signatories to CRP-1 must sign)
- Develop approved conservation plan with NRCS or TSP:
  - if method of destruction creates an adverse environmental effect
  - for conservation compliance, if applicable

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

- Fall seeded crops may be planted beginning September 1 state wide. A contract violation exists if planted prior to this date
- Haying, grazing or other commercial use of CRP is **NOT** permitted
- A contract violation exists if fall planted crop is not planted in a normal manner and may result in a refund of all CRP annual rental payments, plus interest, and liquidated damages
- When needed to adequately prepare seedbed for fall seeded crops, haying is permitted but no commercial use – must pay for COC to verify destruction
- No payment reduction required.

### **DIASTER BUY-IN WAIVER EXTENTION FOR 2008 CROPS**

Kansas producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009 to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs. Eligible participants must pay the \$100 per crop buy-in fee.

- Each producer with an insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- Each producer with a noninsurable crop must agree to file documents and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.  
"Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

### **RECONSTITUTIONS**

August 1, 2009, is the last date to request a farm combination or division for 2009. Any request after that date, or if payments have been made on the farm, the reconstitution will be completed the following year. Land that has the same owner and operator must be in one farm.

### **YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE**

FSA Farm Loan makes loans to youths in rural communities who want to start learning the business of agriculture. Stop in and visit with our Farm Loan staff.