



Ottawa County

FSA News



April 2009

Ottawa County FSA Office
877 Laurel.
Minneapolis, KS 67467
(785)392-3393
(785)392-3342 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Tim Myers, Chairperson
Ken Berry, Vice-Chairperson
Vera Freeman, Member

Mtg. 1st Wednesday of the Month

County Executive Director

David Pounds, CED

Staff

Angela Haney, PT Valerie Crum, PT
Renda Brown, PT Tina Clarkson, Temp

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
FSA Forms-www.sc.egov.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

FOREIGN INVESTOR REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. Agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

2009 Farm Bill

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

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payments yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. 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.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

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 later. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time. We still encourage you to call and make an appointment to enroll now in the DCP program and determine later if you will go into ACRE. ACRE sign up has not been announced. Sign up ends on August 14, 2009.

CRP EARLY PREPARATION

Beginning July 1 of the final year of the CRP-1 (contract), CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before the expiration to prepare a seedbed for "fall" seeded crops. Producers would need to file a request for early destruction and follow an approved conservation plan. No payment reduction will be assessed for the early destruction. The fall seeded crop may be planted prior to October 1.

Producers will be in violation of CRP-1 if the approved participant fails to plant a fall seeded crop in a normal manner, and may result in a refund of CRP annual rental payment, plus interest, and liquidated damages

Beginning July 15 CRP participants are permitted to apply "chemicals" for destruction of the CRP cover for "spring" seeded crops; otherwise early destruction of the CRP cover by any other means is not permitted prior to the end of the CRP contract period.

Remember to file a request for early destruction.

CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

Numerous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, encompassing over 2 million acres in Kansas will expire between 2009 and 2013. Many contract holders may choose to return their acres back to crop production or grazing land.

To maintain the conservation benefits achieved in the CRP, FSA encourages agricultural producers to consider keeping some or all of their environmentally sensitive acreage under contract. While reenrollment options under general signup are limited, landowners may enroll their environmentally sensitive acres in continuous CRP signup at any time.

Continuous CRP practices include riparian forest buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, and wildlife habitat buffers, which provide important environmental benefits, such as promoting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

FSA accepts continuous CRP signup contracts automatically, provided landowners meet eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP signup contracts are 10-15 years long and pay an enhanced rental rate.

Reminders

NAP production evidence

**Producers with losses are to notify FSA within 15 days of the loss.
**Producers who do not have a loss are required to provide production evidence to report and verify 2009 production. The producer is to pay the cost of a field reporter to verify the production in the field. The production must not be fed before reporting to FSA. If production is fed and therefore not verifiable the production is not acceptable as eligible production evidence and will not count towards the APH (actual production history).

Producers are to provide bale counts and weights when reporting production of baled crops. We must have verifiable weights of the bales. *The time to verify production is at the completion of harvest.*

Record Changes – If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes to FSA as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest may lead to potential program ineligibility and damages.

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."

CP38E KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRDS

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) is to improve populations of quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, and other grassland associated wildlife. The SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP. To be eligible for SAFE, land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements and be cropland in four of six years 1996 thru 2001. Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. Signup for CP38E continues until the acreage goal of 30,100 is met. Areas can be in the middle of fields, borders of fields, terraces or grass strips; center pivot corners the options are unlimited.

Rental rates are based on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the three predominate soils. A one-time signing incentive of \$100 per acre for Contracts of 10 years or more is paid. A one time practice incentive payment is paid for installation costs and practice installation cost share. Producers "re-enrolling expiring CRP" into CP38E will not be eligible for the \$100 Signup Incentive (SIP) or practice installation cost share (PIP).

Maximum Acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields greater than 25 acres, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

2009 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The final date to certify wheat, barley, and oats is **June 1, 2009**.

The final date to certify corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, and other feed crops is **August 1, 2009**.

NAP coverage producers are to be aware that feed crops are required to have the acreage reported 15 days prior to the crop being harvested (alfalfa - May 1st).

We are taking acreage reports. Call our office for an appointment 785-392-3393.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities. These are seven year loans and are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower.

KANSAS AGRABILITY PROJECT

Do you need special accommodations on your farm or ranch because of an injury, illness or disability? Contact the Kansas AgrAbility Project for an assessment of your worksite. Their goal is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, farm families, and farm workers who have disabilities, so they can continue to work and thrive in their agricultural career. Contact them at 1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648).

CRP MAINTENANCE

Producers need to keep noxious weeds and trees from their CRP acres. Sericea Lespedeza is showing up in more grass stands in our area and failure to take care of this noxious plant can lead to penalties and possible termination of the contract. Producers are reminded to control musk thistle and trees also. If trees were not in your initial planting they are not to be in your CRP now. No roads, sheds, houses, machinery, hay etc shall be on the CRP acres.

Producers putting in the partial CRP fields or buffer areas need to remember they need to mark their borders with permanent markings (Steel post, fence, fiberglass posts or pipes). This will keep from encroaching on the border areas.

