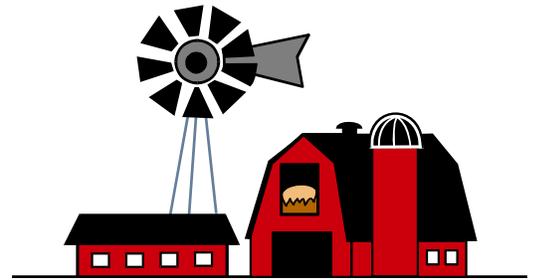




"PLAINS" TALK



PHILLIPS COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

1717 HIGHWAY 183
PHILLIPSBURG, KS 67661

Ronald L Wyckoff
County Executive Director

OFFICE HOURS 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
TELE: 785-543-2732 FAX 785-543-6324

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Warren Kelly	CHAIRPERSON
Kenneth D Johnson	VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Kenneth Stockman	MEMBER
Kay Rose	ADVISOR

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH, 9:00 A.M.

April 2009

CRP Informational Meeting

A Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss provisions and options of CRP. The meeting will be held at the Phillips County Fair Building.

There are 11,406 acres of CRP expiring in Phillips County on September 30, 2009, and 3,665 acres of CRP expiring on September 30, 2010. This is 79% of all CRP in Phillips County.

The meeting will cover options for re-enrolling portions of the expiring fields into Continuous CRP practices to maximize conservation benefits. Rules and provisions for returning the expiring fields back into crop production, or forage or pasture production will also be discussed.

We will also discuss the benefits of enrolling new acreage currently being farmed into the Continuous CRP practices.

Attendance at the informational meeting is highly encouraged.

EARLY LAND PREPARATION EXPIRING CRP

Producers with Conservation Reserve program (CRP) contracts expiring September 30, 2009 may begin land preparation to plant a **fall** crop, usually wheat, as early as May 1, 2009. Wheat or another fall crop must be planted if land preparation is started before September 30, 2009. Failure to plant a fall crop will result in the refund of all payments received plus liquidated damages and interest. Producers who start preparing the acreage early must file form CRP-1G prior to beginning preparation. Annual rental payments will be reduced through June 30 from the start date of the early preparation. Producers who elect to start preparation for a fall crop beginning July 1 will not lose any annual rental payments. All producers must obtain an approved Conservation Plan of Operation with NRCS prior to destruction of the CRP cover. CRP cover may be chemically destroyed on or after July 15, 2009 in preparation of planting a spring crop. Fall crops may be planted no earlier than September 1, 2009. All signatories to the CRP contract must sign the CRP-1G and the County Office Committee (COC) must approve before land preparation may begin.

CRP Maintenance Provisions

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility. CRP conservation plans include measures necessary for the successful establishment and maintenance of the approved practices. Participants are required to maintain the Conservation Reserve Program acreage to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their contracts.

Continuous CRP Overview

The continuous CRP process allows producers the management flexibility to implement certain high-priority conservation practices on eligible land. This program allows the enrollment of eligible land into CRP at any time. Offers can be accepted automatically provided all eligibility requirements are met.

The purpose of continuous signup is to enroll *small acreages* that provide maximum environmental benefits. There are attractive signing and practice incentive payments in addition to annual payments for continuous CRP contracts.

The following are some CRP practices available for environmentally sensitive areas which provide increased environmental and wildlife benefits.

- Riparian Buffers – planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses to catch pollutants before they reach streams or other water bodies, available on cropland and marginal pastureland.
- Filter Strips – strips of grass used to trap sediment and other pollutants before they reach streams or lakes.
- Grassed Waterways – strips of grass seeded within cropland where water tends to concentrate or flow off a field.
- Shelterbelts and Field Windbreaks – rows of trees and shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, provide protection to livestock, and farmsteads.
- Living Snow Fences – Similar to windbreaks but to help manage snow deposits by protecting buildings, roads, and other property.
- Contour Grass Strips – establish strips of grass to reduce erosion and control runoff.
- Wetland areas - develop wetland or pothole areas protected by grass buffers within crop fields.
- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife – develop areas of shallow water protected by tree, and grass buffer within crop fields to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Habitat Buffers and acres for wildlife – planting of grass buffers around crop fields, or acreages within cropped fields to provide food and cover for quail, upland birds, and other wildlife species.

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, audiotope, 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."