



# RICE County FSA News

JULY 2009



## RICE County FSA

1480 W US HWY 56, RM 101  
Lyons, Ks 67554-9209  
TEL: (620) 257-5184  
FAX: (620) 257-5653

## Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## Farm Loan Programs:

By appointment for Rice County visits:  
(620) 669-8161

## County Committee

Howard M Behnke, Chairperson  
Mark A Engelland, Vice-Chairperson  
Eric D Kratzer, Member  
Margaret Scheufler, Advisor  
**COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.**

## Employee Information

Rodney Ackerman, CED  
Judy Borgen, Program Technician  
Tammy Clark, Program Technician  
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician  
Margaret Chain, Program Technician  
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.67/bu
Corn	\$1.98/bu
Soybeans	\$4.91/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.35/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.59/cwt
Barley	\$1.80/bu

## RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. 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 in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

## In the Spotlight

**July 3** – Closed for Independence Day

**August 1** – Final date to submit nominations for the 2009 COC Election.

**August 14** – Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, NAP and any other land uses.

Final date to signup for the 2009 DCP and ACRE programs. Late-filing cannot be approved.

**Sept 7** – Closed for Labor Day

**Sept 30** – Deadline to provide 2009 Eligibility paperwork.

**2009 dates FSA offices will be closed:**

**October 12** – Columbus Day

**November 11** – Veterans Day

**November 26** – Thanksgiving Day

**December 25** – Christmas Day

## FEED GRAIN REPORTING DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>



Reporting of your crop acres is required on farms that are enrolled in DCP, contain CRP acreages, have insured NAP crops, fruits and vegetables, or produce a crop for which a loan or LDP may later be requested.

**The final date** to report your 2009 corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, NAP and other land uses has been extended to **August 14, 2009**.

We realize the weather has been very uncooperative for getting your crops planted and wheat harvest completed. However, we have a very short timeframe for getting feed grain reports loaded into the computer system. We ask that you call as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. **We would like to have everyone scheduled by the end of July.**

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## DCP SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 14, 2009

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. Form CCC-509 must be filed with all signatures for a farm by August 14, 2009 to remain eligible for benefits. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment 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.

Farms with bases of 10.0 acres or less are not eligible for DCP or ACRE unless owned by producers who meet the FSA definition of a socially disadvantaged applicant (SDA) or a limited resource producer.

## ACRE SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 14, 2009

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. ACRE payments are revenue-based payments and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted, and considered planted, covered commodity crops or peanuts on the farm. ACRE payment acreage is limited to the total amount of base acres on the farm, and can only be issued for a crop if two triggers are met for the covered commodity crop or peanuts.

- State Trigger: The Actual State Revenue for the program year must be less than the State ACRE Guarantee.
- Farm Trigger: The participating farm's Actual Farm Revenue for the program year must be less than the Farm ACRE Guarantee.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information on ACRE check out the FSA website at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp)

## DIRECT DEPOSIT

Payments made electronically using Direct Deposit has cut down on the number of missing or late payments. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Treasury will issue funds and this is called check centralization. The benefit of Direct Deposit is payment will be deposited within 2-3 days. If you do not have Direct Deposit a check will be delayed 7-10 days.

Any changes to your account or financial institution will have an affect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.

## Foreign Investors

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs



## County Committee Election

**This fall**, producers in LAA-1, the northwestern portion of the county, will hold its election. Howard Behnke currently represents this area, which consists of Farmer, Eureka, Victoria, Pioneer, Lincoln and Harrison townships. Howard has reached his 9 year limit on the COC and is not eligible for re-election.

**Each County Committee** (COC) member is elected by the eligible producers in their area for a 3 year term. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them, including DCP, price support and farm loan programs, and conservation and disaster programs.

**Nomination** petition forms must be submitted to the County office by close of business August 3, 2009. FSA is required to ensure diversity on the County Committee and solicit and accept nominations from all eligible producers in the election area, including women and minority nominees. Election guidelines and other election information are available on the internet at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/>

**Ballots:** Voters in LAA-1 will be mailed a ballot this fall (November) and directly elect a County Committee member and alternates. December 7, 2009 is the last day to return completed ballots.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

## DOCUMENTING LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES UNDER "LIP"

We are encouraging producers who suffered livestock death losses on or after January 1, 2008, to begin compiling verifiable documentation of eligible livestock deaths.

Producers will need to provide documentation detailing the proof of death to indicate that the livestock deaths are a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. It will also be necessary for producers to provide documents detailing the quantity and kind of livestock that died as a result of the adverse weather event. Documentation may include, but is not limited to the following: bank or other loan documents, FEMA records, tax records, National Guard records, private insurance documents, production records, property tax records, purchase records, rendering truck receipts, veterinarian records, and written contracts.

FSA is not currently taking LIP applications or making LIP payments but is simply informing producers of the documents that will need to be presented to FSA to prove death losses for LIP purposes.

### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

**Check** the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

**Control** trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

**If you are delinquent** on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

**Producers** planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

### 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."