



May 2009

Riley/Geary News



Riley/Geary County USDA Service Center

Riley/Geary County FSA
3705 Miller Parkway
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-776-7582 (phone)
785-539-2733 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
tamie.buckley@ks.usda.gov

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Michael Steinfort
Wendell Anderson
David Cederberg
Jeffrey Schurle
Marjorie Wahle

The County Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Riley/Geary FSA Office.

FSA Staff
Karla Butler
Suzanne Larson
Debra Marston
Susan Rusch
Tamie L Buckley, CED

PROGRAM PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

For wheat, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, and minor oilseeds:
Direct - \$40,000
Counter-Cyclical-\$65,000
ACRE - \$65,000 plus any Direct payment reduction

Loan Deficiency Payments & Marketing Gains:
No Limit on 2009 commodities

Conservation Reserve Program: \$50,000

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program: \$100,000

SURE, LIP, LFP, & Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish: \$100,000

Tree Assistance Program: \$100,000

RILEY/GEARY STAFF

Some of the faces in the Riley/Geary office are new to our producers, so here is a brief introduction of your current FSA staff:

Susan Rusch – Sue has worked for FSA for 22 years. She began her work in the Geary County office, has a broad knowledge of our programs, and is a true asset to the office.

Karla Butler – Karla also began working for our agency in Geary County and has worked for FSA for 10 years. Karla works with CRP and farm recons and is a true program expert.

Deb Marston – Deb has worked for FSA for 5 years and started her career in the Geary County office. She has prior work experience in the ag field, and this firsthand knowledge has been a great asset to our producers.

Suzanne Larson – Suzie is the newest addition to our staff. She has previously worked in the banking industry and teaching, as well as being a farmwife. We are very excited to have her as part of our team.

Tamie Buckley – Tamie has worked for FSA for 5 years, starting in Clay County, then moving to Ashland, Kansas as the County Executive Director. She has been in the Riley/Geary offices since 2007. Tamie has worked in the ag industry her entire life.

ACREAGE REPORTING REMINDER!

May 31st is the deadline to certify small grains. As of press time, nearly ½ of the farms in the area had not made contact with the office to report wheat acres. You must certify all cropland acres on an annual basis to remain eligible for program benefits. A late filing fee will be charged for a field visit to verify crops reported after the deadline. Spring seeded crops must be certified by August 1st.

This year we are taking full farm certifications to keep producers eligible for the new SURE disaster program. This includes grazed pasture acres, hay meadows, and other hay crops that may not have been reported in the past. This means certification is taking significantly longer than normal, so appointment slots may not be as readily available as in the past. Please call us to set up your appointment today!

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Seven-year low interest Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to purchase and install eligible grain storage facilities, to permanently affix drying or handling equipment, safety equipment or to remodel existing facilities. Real estate liens are required for loans that exceed \$50,000. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is required. For more information contact the Riley/Geary FSA Office.

2009 DCP SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) is underway and ends **August 14th**. There are NO late filing provisions for 2009 DCP.

DCP payments are computed using base acres and payment yields that have previously been established for each farm. 2009 direct payments will be made on 83.3% of base acres at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Advanced payments may be requested beginning immediately and are 22% of the total payment. Final payments will be issued in October.

Counter-cyclical payments provide support counter to the cycle of market prices as part of a "safety net" in the event of low crop prices. These payments are only issued if the effective price for a commodity is below the target price for the commodity and are also based on established base acres and yields for the farm.

ACRE

For the 2009-2012, producers have the option to sign up for the new ACRE program in place of DCP. Once a farm is enrolled in ACRE, it remains an ACRE farm through 2012, even if ownership changes occur. Farms that are already enrolled in DCP may elect to switch to ACRE before the end of signup. Producers on participating ACRE farms must annually report acreage AND production to FSA. Farms electing ACRE will receive 80% of the DCP Direct Payment Rate and 70% of the Market Assistance Loan rate for commodity loans and LDPs.

In place of a counter cyclical payment, an ACRE payment may be earned. ACRE payments are revenue-based and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted covered commodity crops on the farm. Payment acreage is limited to the total amount of base acres on the farm, are based on what is actually planted on the farm this year, and can only be issued for a crop if two triggers are met for the covered commodity planted for that crop year. The triggers are 1) the State Trigger (Crop's Actual State Revenue for the program year must be less than the State ACRE Guarantee) and 2) Farm Trigger (The participating farm's Actual Farm Revenue for the program year must be less than the Farm ACRE Guarantee). ACRE sign-up will be held from April 27 – August 14. For more information contact the Riley/Geary FSA Office.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster Rules

Remember that prior to breaking out any new ground that has not previously had a Highly Erodible Land or Wetland determination; you must contact FSA or NRCS. Also, before you plant a new crop on HEL ground, you should contact NRCS to ensure you remain in compliance with your conservation plan. Failure to comply with these rules will result in penalties and possible program ineligibility.



Dates to Remember

May 31 –Final date to certify small grains

June 15 - Aug 3 – County Committee Nomination Period

Aug 1 - Final date to certify spring seeded crops

Aug 1 - Final date to request farm reconstitutions for 2009

Aug 14 – Deadline to signup for 2009 DCP & ACRE Program

Aug 15 – Final date to report NAP production for 2008 crop year

Office Closed for Holidays:

- May 25** –Memorial Day
- July 3**-Independence Day
- Sept 7** – Labor Day
- Oct 12** –Columbus Day
- Nov 11**–Veterans Day
- Nov 26**–Thanksgiving
- Dec 25** - Christmas

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

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Program

Did you know that you can carry equivalent to CAT insurance on such crops as double crop soybeans and milo, fruits vegetables, alfalfa, brome, and native grass? Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

NAP sales closing dates have been established as follows in Kansas:

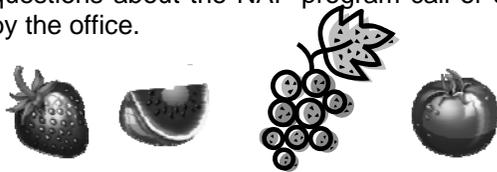
January 1st: Apples, and Pears.

March 15th: Coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts.

September 1st: All small grain crops, except Oats, plus Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Speltz, and Turf Grass Sod.

December 1st: All Grasses plus Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

Cost of coverage is \$250 per crop per administrative county. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster causes a 50 percent or greater production loss on an eligible crop. If you have questions about the NAP program call or stop by the office.



ANNUAL FOREIGN INVESTORS DISCLOSURE ACT

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION & NOMINATIONS CALENDAR

This year, the Riley/Geary County Committee is holding an election in LAA 1. This is at the northern end of Riley County, following an east-west line starting at the south edge of section 26-7-4 going east to the county line and north to the county line. The period to nominate candidates for election is June 15th to August 3rd.

Wendell Anderson has been the representative for LAA1 for the past 9 years. Committee members are elected for 3 year terms and can serve up to 3 consecutive terms if re-elected. Therefore, Mr. Anderson will not be eligible to be nominated for re-election this year.

The Riley/Geary FSA County Committee is made up of 5 members. Current members include: Mike Steinfort, Chair; Wendell Anderson, Vice Chair. Regular members: David Cederberg; Jeff Schurle and Marj Wahle.

County committees are an important link between farm producers and FSA offices. Committee members supervise the County Executive Director, make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the area holding the election.

Producers may nominate others or themselves, and organizations representing minorities and women can nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form is available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or at your county office. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be received in the FSA office by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 6th. Ballots are due back to county office either via mail or in person by December 7th. Newly elected committee members will take office January 1st, 2009. For more information on County Committee nominations, contact our office.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.