



Kansas FSA Today

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An Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Hottest Topics in Federal Farm Programs

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

WHAT IS HAY NET?

The FSA electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online.

Access www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the 'Got Hay' logo at the top of the page.

CRP HAYING & GRAZING OPTIONS

Counties approved for CRP **emergency grazing** include: Allen, Anderson, Barber, Barton, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clark, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Crawford, Dickinson, Edwards, Elk, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Greeley, Greenwood, Graham, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Lane, Linn, Logan, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Montgomery, Morris, Morton, Neosho, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Trego, Wallace, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson. Emergency grazing in approved counties is allowed through October 31, 2011. All livestock must be removed by the end of this grazing period. Producers without livestock may rent or lease the grazing privileges.

Emergency haying in approved counties is allowed through September 30, 2011. Hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from end of the haying period. Hay cannot be sold but the privilege can be rented or leased for an amount not exceeding the 25 percent cost..



Managed grazing is permitted from July 16 through September 30, not to exceed 77 consecutive days or as otherwise limited by forage conditions, stocking rates, etc as listed in the forage management plan.

Producers who do not own or lease livestock, may rent or lease the grazing privilege. Producers previously approved for managed grazing can switch to emergency grazing in approved counties, but the original grazing frequency will still apply.

CRP participants shall contact the local FSA county office to request emergency haying or grazing on an individual contract basis prior to haying or grazing. Participants shall work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a forage management plan. If the CRP cover is destroyed, the practice must be re-established at their own expense to remain in compliance with the CRP contract.

Participants accept a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually hayed or grazed. CRP participants in counties not approved for emergency haying or grazing should periodically contact their FSA county office as additional counties are approved on a daily basis.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. Fire losses apply only to federally managed rangeland. Applications must be filed **no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year** in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed. Eligible producers **must** have obtained a policy or plan of insurance under crop insurance or NAP coverage by the applicable state sales closing date.

The following counties meet the 2011 LFP trigger requirements for native and improved grasses: Barber, Barton, Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clark, Comanche, Cowley, Edwards, Elk, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Lane, Logan, Lyon, McPherson, Marion, Meade, Montgomery, Morris, Morton, Neosho, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Trego, Wallace, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson. Additional counties could be become eligible later depending on the U.S. Drought Monitor rating.



2011 ELAP AND LIP SIGN-UP

The USDA Farm Service Agency's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) have sign-up deadlines approaching.

Both ELAP and LIP sign-ups require a Notice of Loss for livestock death losses be filed the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant.
- December 29, 2011.

ELAP livestock grazing & feed losses, honey bee, and farm raised fish losses require a Notice of Loss be filed the earlier of :

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant.
- January 30, 2012.

An application for payment must be filed no later than January 30, 2012.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.

December 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for all Grasses including Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practices are available for specific conservation practices where needed. Producers offering environmentally sensitive acreage under the provisions of Continuous CRP may qualify for annual rental payments and practice cost-share incentives of up to 50 percent of the cost for installing the approved practices. This conservation program will remain funded, and as implemented will continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) provides for the transition of expiring CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. TIP provides annual rental payments for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis. Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning one year before the expiration date of a CRP contract and ending on the date of the CRP contract expiration.

Beginning farmer or rancher means a person or entity who has not been a farm or ranch operator for more than 10 years; materially and substantially participates in the operation of the farm or ranch involved in CRP contract modification; and if an entity, is an entity in which 50 percent of the members or stockholders of the entity meet the first two criteria.

Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Gender is not included.

DCP AND ACRE SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been delayed until **January 23, 2012** and will continue through June 1, 2012. USDA computes DCP payments using 85 percent of the base acres times the payment yield established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2012, advance payments are not available.

Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

Producers also have the option to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

Producers can fill out a DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or online. To access the online service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

The loan disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to FSA prior to an site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

NEWSLETTERS NO LONGER MAILED TO PRODUCERS

Due to budget constraints, FSA may no longer mail regular newsletters.

Producers are encouraged to provide their email address to the local FSA office to receive newsletters and other reminders by email. Producers shall complete a form AD-2047 for this service.

On-line State newsletters will be available monthly:

✓ Producers can obtain at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks then click on Newsletters in left column.

✓ Or provide email address to your local FSA office and receive the newsletter by email.

✓ Or obtain a copy at the local FSA office.

EMERGENCY LOANS

FSA is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Eligible loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property and pay production costs associated with the disaster year. Applicants can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses not to exceed \$500,000. The current rate for these low interest loans is 3.75 percent. Producers must meet eligibility requirements and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Contact your local FSA office for disaster designations.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes loans to rural youths age 10-20 to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improvement of farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

BEGINNING FARMER & RANCHERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in any loan assessment and borrower training program in production and/or financial management required by the Agency.
- Does not own farm acreage greater than 30% of the median size farm in the county.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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