



Kansas FSA Updates

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Farm Service Agency

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DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP CONTINUES

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

CRP SIGN-UP STARTS SOON

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled while 32.0 million acres are authorized for CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP nationwide, including 212,000 in Kansas, are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

During 2011, all counties except Republic County received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

NEW STREAMLINED OPERATING LOAN PROGRAM

In January, FSA initiated a new streamlined application process for existing FSA borrowers who have sought operating credit to finance their annual crop and livestock needs. A simplified application Form FSA 2314 "Streamlined Request for Direct OL Assistance" has eliminated many previously required forms by FSA. The new streamlined process for annual operating loans is great for those existing borrowers who require annual operating loans with FSA each year. It's not a bank line of credit, but a step in the right direction to eliminate unnecessary forms.

If borrowers have completed one full operating year with a FSA annual operating loan, be sure to visit with your FSA Loan Manager or Officer about the streamlined application process at your local FSA County Office.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAM (DIPP)

The Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) provides payments to dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because of contamination due to no fault of the producer, such as pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or other toxic substances such as aflatoxin in the feed. DIPP also provides payments to manufacturers of dairy products removed from the market because of pesticide contamination.

Affected producers and manufacturers should apply for indemnity payments at a local USDA Service Center or FSA office. DIPP claims for a loss that occurred on or before September 30, 2013, must be submitted to the appropriate County Office by close of business December 31, 2013.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS CLAIMS PROCESS EXTENDED

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. The original claims period opened on September 24, 2012 and was to close on March 25, 2013. **All claims must now be filed by May 1, 2013.** Secretary Vilsack's full news release issued on March 25, 2013 may be found in the newsroom at www.usda.gov.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

HELP SHOW STRENGTH OF KANSAS AG THROUGH THE AG CENSUS

Nearly 64 percent of farmers and ranchers have returned completed Census forms to NASS at the national level. The dedication and effort of those who have responded is sincerely appreciated. Farmers can still return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-424-7828.

DATES TO REMEMBER

05/01/2013 Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Deadline
05/20/2013 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-Up Begins
05/31/2013 Final Availability Date for 2012 MAL - Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans
06/03/2013 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Sign-Up Ends
06/07/2013 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Sign-Up Ends
06/14/2013 CRP General Sign-Up Ends
08/02/2013 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Sign-Up Ends

SELECTED INTEREST RATES FOR APRIL 2013

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) 1.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present 1.125%

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your Gov Delivery subscription with the Kansas FSA State Office, contact Joshua Ridder at joshua.ridder@ks.usda.gov or phone 785-539-3531.

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