



Kansas FSA Updates

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Farm Service Agency

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ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the July 15 deadline on all spring-seeded crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of July 15 for spring-seeded crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices continue to accept applications for the 2013 Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

GRP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for the restoration and conservation of grasslands through permanent easements or rental contracts.

Applications may be taken on a continuous basis, however applications accepted now will likely be deferred for review until 2014.

GRP benefits the environment by preventing grasslands from being converted to cropland or used for urban development. Rural economies also benefit from NRCS and FSA program participation.

For more information or to submit a GRP application, please contact your local NRCS or FSA Office.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

More information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

DCP SIGN-UP ENDS AUGUST 2

The DCP sign-up period is still open, but will end on Aug. 2, 2013.

The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012. Producers with level 2 access who wish to enroll online should start now. If you encounter a problem with online enrollment, please contact your local FSA office immediately.

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

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

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

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

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 members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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

KANSAS AG MEDIATION SERVICES OFFERS HELP WITH FREEZE AND DROUGHT ISSUES

With the Kansas wheat crop damaged by a late freeze and drought; livestock operations struggling with pasture, feed costs and water issues; and all producers dealing with high input prices, the ability to make payments on loans and accounts may be impaired.

The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) offers free or low-cost services to farmers that are particularly helpful in such situations.

This year USDA Secretarial disaster designations due to drought have been declared in all 105 counties in Kansas. As a result, many farmers and ranchers may be unable to make payments to creditors. KAMS offers advice and assistance in a variety of ways:

- Mediate/negotiate with banks, suppliers and other creditors to restructure debt.
- Develop feasible, objective restructure plans.
- Determine loan restructure options on FSA direct and guaranteed loans.

Services offered by KAMS include: low cost on-farm computer analysis of options through the K-State Research and Extension Farm Analyst Program; low cost legal advice under the Farm Mediation Legal Counseling Program of KAMS through Kansas Legal Services; and mediation assistance through KAMS mediators. These services are available to all parties—both producers and lenders—to help analyze, generate options, and resolve difficult financial situations.

KAMS has more than 25 years of experience in assisting Kansas farmers, ranchers, and their lenders to improve financial stability for the producer's operation.

Ag producers, creditors and others interested in accessing KAMS services can call KAMS' toll free number 1-800-321-FARM (3276). Check out their website as well at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/>.

DATES TO REMEMBER

07/15/2013 Final Acreage Reporting for Spring-Seeded Crops
08/02/2013 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Sign-Up Ends

SELECTED INTEREST RATES FOR JUNE 2013

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) 1.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present 1.125%

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USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence
Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800)
877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
