



**Dickinson County
Farm Service Agency**

January 2011

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Abilene KS 67410-1928

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

Office Staff

Sara Morey
County Executive Director

Bill Mahanay
Farm Loan Manager

Ellen Alvarez
Tonya Askew
Sandy Johnson
Jamie Millard
Michele Snowball
Program Technician

Les Gray
Robert Meyer
Field Staff

County Committee

Annette Caldwell
Donnetta Felbush
Chad Lorson

County Committee Meets:
9:00 am; 2nd Wednesday of
Month

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FSA Election Results:

The recent County Committee Election resulted in Chad Lorson, being elected to the COC in LAA3, consisting of the following townships: Wheatland, Jefferson, Ridge, Union, Holland, Banner, Hope and Lyon.

Of 993 eligible votes, the county office received 225 resulting in 23% of the votes being returned. Not all of the votes were valid; 1 was invalid and 11 were spoiled resulting in a total of 213 valid votes.

The County Committee (COC) administers FSA Programs at the county level. The 2011 COC will be comprised of Annette Caldwell, Donnetta Felbush, and Chad Lorson. The COC meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

AFIDA:

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.

Acreage Certification to Begin:

Postcards will be sent to operators informing them of their certification appointment. It is important that all acreages being utilized be certified on form FSA-578.

Paper Check Conversion:

Over the next year, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will move toward an electronic method for processing producer checks. Paper check conversion is the process of converting paper checks presented to FSA or CCC into electronic debits to the producer's bank account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notice posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Dept. of Treasury website for detailed information:

www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup:

The enrollment period for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) began on October 1, 2010 and ends on June 1, 2011.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed).

Contracts were mailed in December, 2010. If you have not received your contract please contact the office.

Payment Eligibility:

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Individuals and entities must be “actively engaged in farming” with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be “actively engaged in farming,” the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Payments and benefits under certain FSA programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule average AGI limitations
- no program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:
 - all required forms for the specific situation are provided
 - necessary payment eligibility and Payment limitation determinations are made
- after 2009, a farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office
- if any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) determination, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as

applicable. Failure to timely notify the County Office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. The low interest rate changes monthly and is based on the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting upright and bunker silos, new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass, and new cold storage facilities suitable for storing the fruits and vegetables produced by the borrower. Loan limits are up to \$500,000. Loan terms: \$100,000 or less – 7 years; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 years; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 years. Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available.

Dickinson County Loan Rates Crop Year 2010	
Wheat	\$ 2.84/bu
Corn	\$ 2.03/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$ 3.31/cwt
Barley	\$ 1.85/bu
Oats	\$ 1.43/bu
Soybeans	\$ 4.90/bu

Dates to Remember	
Date	Item
May 31 st	Acres Reporting Deadline – Small Grains
June 1 st	Final date for 2011 DCP and ACRE signup
August 1 st	Acres Reporting Deadline – Spring Seeded Crops
August 1 st	Acres Reporting Deadline - CRP