



**Osborne County
Farm Service Agency**

January 2011

1117 W Hwy 24
Osborne, KS 67473

PH 785-346-2128
FAX 785-346-2057
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

Office Staff
Karen McCune,
County Executive Director
Jane Forbes,
Program Technician
Becky Grabast,
Program Technician
Rhonda Koenigsman,
Program Technician
Sherrie Roach,
Program Technician

County Committee
Jhan LaRosh
Kenneth Lee
James Nichols
Imogene Thornburg

County Committee meets 2nd
Thursday of the month @
12:30 P.M. November through
May and @ 8:30 A.M. June
through October

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, audiotope, 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.

DCP PROGRAM SIGNUP

Signup for 2011 DCP and ACRE has begun and runs through June 1, 2011. Advance direct payments of 22% are available. New Adjusted Gross Income certifications are required each year and must be completed before payments can be issued.

REPORT WHEAT ACRES NOW

Certification can be completed at the same time as enrollment. The final date to certify small grains is May 31, 2011, or 15 days prior to haying or grazing. Please contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment to complete these tasks.

THE ACRE OPTION

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. For 2011, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2009 and 2010 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

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.

WOMEN MANAGING THE FARM

The annual Women Managing the Farm Conference will be held February 11 – 12, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Over the 2 days of the conference, presentations regarding business and estate planning, health, managing employees and more will be interspersed with opportunities for networking and learning from others attending the conference. Included are several general sessions with featured speakers. In addition, attendees can select from many different presentations for the breakout sessions. The WMF conference has been developed for all women involved in an operation from the fulltime manager to the absentee landowner needing a bit of insight about managing their investment. The deadline to receive a reduced rate for a motel reservation is January 23rd. To register for the conference and for more information, visit the website at www.togpartners.com/wmf/.



BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER LOANS

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups 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 that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size. Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

REAL ESTATE DOWN PAYMENT PROGRAM

FSA has a special loan program to assist beginning farmers in purchasing a farm. Retiring farmers may use this program to transfer their land to future generations.

To qualify:

- The applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price.
- The maximum loan amount does not exceed 45 percent of the least of (a) the purchase price of the farm or ranch to be acquired; (b) the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired; or (c) \$500,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan amount of \$225,000).
- The term of the loan is 20 years. The interest rate is 1.5% as of January 2011.
- The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.
- Financing from participating lenders must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent COC election. The results of the election are as follows:

Kenneth Lee - 63 votes
 Donald Harzman (write in) – 1 vote

Kenneth began his term January 1st. Donald will serve as his alternate.

GENERAL FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000.

Farm Operating Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, equipment and livestock purchases. Farm Ownership loans can be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, or construct essential farm buildings and improvements.

NAP DEADLINES

March 15 is the deadline to purchase NAP coverage for sorghum forage for hay for the 2011 crop year. NAP coverage is available at the FSA office for a \$250 administrative fee. Producers will need to contact their RMA insurance company to purchase silage coverage.

April 15 is the final date for producers who purchased NAP insurance for 2011 to certify their alfalfa, pasture, prairie and brome hay acreages.

2010 Policyholders are required to provide acceptable and verifiable production evidence of their crops by April 15. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the disapproval of any applications for disaster benefits. It will also have adverse implications for future year approved yield calculations.

Dates to Remember

Ongoing	Report changes when buying or selling land, or picking up or dropping rented land from your operation.
Jan 31	Final date to file application for payment for livestock, honey, bees or farm-raised fish losses.
Jan 31	Final date to request loan or LDP on wool, mohair & unshorn pelts.
Mar 15	Final date to purchase NAP for 2011 sorghum forage.
Mar 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for wheat, oats, and barley.
May 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for corn, milo, and soybeans.
May 31	Final date to report small grain crops.