



## Pottawatomie County Farm Service Agency

January 2011

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

### Office Staff

Annette Ramsey,  
County Executive Director  
Diane K. O'Shea,  
Program Technician  
Debbie L. Lundgren,  
Program Technician  
Sara M. Wege,  
Program Technician

Kay A. McCoy,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Raymond J. Muetting,  
Farm Loan Officer  
Donna F. Griswold,  
FLP Program Technician  
Charlene C. Boden  
FLP Program Technician

### County Committee

William J. Budenbender  
Clara M. Ebert  
J. Wayne Gilsdorf

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## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

County Committees play a vital role in helping to endure that Farm Service Agency (FSA) agricultural programs adequately serve the needs of county producers. Each year farmers and ranchers elect a member or members to the county committee. Producers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer agency programs. We want to congratulate Clara M. Ebert who has been elected to serve on the county committee for a three year term beginning January 1, 2011. Clara will serve as a County Committee member for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3.

Producers who are interested in the county committee election process are encouraged to attend the election informational meeting to be held on June 14, 2011.

## NATIONAL AG STATISTICAL SURVEY (NASS)

**FSA NEEDS YOU!** FSA reports to NASS the current information on crop progress during the growing season and conditions of crops, pasture and livestock. If you would like to assist by reporting conditions and progress in your area, please let our office know. Contact our office to provide your name and email address. You may also email your information to: [annette.ramsey@ks.usda.gov](mailto:annette.ramsey@ks.usda.gov) Reports are due monthly for January, February and December and weekly for the months of March – November.

## ACREAGE REPORTS ARE DUE

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs, including Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). For crops other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by June 1 on small grains and August 1 on all other crops, including CRP.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 1 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop being reported.

## DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

Signup for the DCP and ACRE program for the 2011 crop year has begun. The DCP and ACRE programs require an annual contract signed by all participants. The last day to sign up in both programs is June 1, 2011. Advance payments are available to those interested producers upon approval of the contract.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY OFFICE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR ACREAGE REPORTING AND DCP/ACRE SIGNUP.** Our telephone number is 785-457-3661.

Scheduled appointments are appreciated and eliminate your wait time.

## SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE)

SURE provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. Deadline for enrollment in SURE is announced annually. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. All mechanically harvested crops must be insured and an acreage report must be filed on all crops, grass and pasture.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CRP participants are reminded of their responsibility to perform annual CRP maintenance as specified in their Conservation Plan of Operation. A major problem in this area is the invasion of sericea lespedeza and other undesirable plants and trees. Participants must ensure all undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious weeds), insects and rodents are controlled.

## PRESCRIBED BURNING ON CRP

CRP burning is permitted from February 1 thru April 15. The Primary Nesting and Brood Rearing Season is April 15 thru July 15. No burning will be allowed after April 15. Prescribed burning cannot be conducted in two consecutive years on the same acreage or in the same year as managed haying and grazing.

All maintenance activities must be documented on your Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) before the activity is permitted. If you are unsure if a maintenance activity is on your CPO, please contact our office.

## HAVE YOU MADE A CHANGE

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, please be sure to report those changes to your local FSA office immediately. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Failure to maintain accurate records with the FSA office on all land you have an interest in can result in possible program ineligibility and /or fines.

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. If you have changed accounts or bank institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payment, contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure continued uninterrupted service.



If you are interested in receiving email notifications of program deadlines or signups and periodic newsletters please email your name to: [annette.ramsey@ks.usda.gov](mailto:annette.ramsey@ks.usda.gov)

**NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

NAP is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

**HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND (HEL) AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE (WC)**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with HEL and WC provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the FSA office prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

**MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT (MILC) PROGRAM**

The MILC Program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. FSA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. To be eligible for payments, dairy producers must have produced cow milk in the U.S., and commercially marketed the milk produced anytime during the period of October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2012. Dairy producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland conservation provisions and Adjusted Gross Income limitations. Signup for the program began December 22, 2008, and extends through the conclusion of the program on September 30, 2012. Payments are issued based on a start month selection by the producers in the dairy operation and are subject to a maximum eligible production limit per dairy operation per fiscal year, ranging from 2.4 million pounds to 2.985 million pounds, depending on the fiscal year. Payment start month selections must be made on CCC-580 and submitted to an FSA Service Center on or before the 14th of the month before the month the dairy operation wants to begin payments. Production evidence for each applicable payment month must be provided to FSA before a MILC payment can be issued.

**CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM**

We are pleased to announce the new Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. Loans are available currently at a 4.375% rate for either 7 or 20 years depending on the security pledged.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of

permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong. In fact, for those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation.

Direct Conservation Loans can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed Conservation Loans up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan Program, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

Are you looking to retire? Are you looking for a way to bring your son or daughter into your farming operation? FSA can help provide financing with programs geared to Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) partners with local agricultural lenders to provide direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who would not be able to finance their operations solely with commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers. \* Operating Loan terms are from 1-7 years for the purchase of crop inputs, feeder livestock, breeding livestock or machinery. Farm Ownership loans are made to purchase and/or improve farm real estate for the farming operation and, depending on the program, are made for up to 40 years.\*

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

We'd appreciate the opportunity to visit with you about our loan programs and how they can help you meet your goals in operating your farm or ranch. Contact our Farm Loan Staff, located in Nemaha County at (785) 336-2164 or talk to any of our local FSA office staff and we will assist you in contacting the Farm Loan Staff for an appointment.

Dates to Remember	
Jan 31	Wool and Mohair and Unshorn Pelts LDP
May 31	Small Grains Certification
June 1	DCP/ACRE final signup date for 2011
August 1	Spring seeded and CRP Certification