



## Sedgwick County Farm Service Agency

**May 2011**

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)

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

### Office Staff

Sean Rafferty,  
County Executive Director  
Gary Nuss,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Nick Bergkamp,  
Farm Loan Officer  
Jane Becker,  
Program Technician  
Anita Breth,  
Program Technician  
Shevell Myers,  
Program Technician  
Mary Rajewski,  
Program Technician  
Lori Schmeissner  
Program Technician

### County Committee

Rex Carmichael  
Geri Farber  
Martin Kerschen  
**COC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month @ 10:00 a.m.**

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### Acreage Reporting



Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Annual crop report deadlines vary based on region, crop, permanent vs. annual crop type, NAP or non-NAP crop and fall or winter seeding.

### 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.

### Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

### Low Interest Farm Loans Available

FSA has low interest farm loans available to those who are unable to obtain commercial credit through the local lender. Loans for the purchase of real estate, livestock, machinery, or to pay operating expenses are available now through FSA at interest rates ranging from 1.5 to 5.00% (fixed).

FSA loan programs are available to all eligible farm operators. FSA does have special loan programs for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants, beginning farmers and rural youth ages 10 to 20 years old.

If you would like to know how you can take advantage of FSA Farm Loan Programs, please contact Gary or Nick at (620) 221-2060 or at the address above.



### Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (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.

### Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (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 USDA Farm Service Agency 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.



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**County Committee (COC) Elections**



Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring..

Geri Farber of Derby was recently reelected to the Sedgwick County Committee as the representative of LAA#3 comprised of Lincoln, Kechi, Payne, Wichita, Minneha, Waco, Riverside, Gypsum, Salem and Rockford townships. Geri began her 3 year term on January 1, 2011. We look forward to working with Geri in the coming years.

**Livestock Deaths**



Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at your local FSA county office.

Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. National payment rates are found on the LIP Fact Sheet at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent. The final date to submit an Application for Payment is Jan. 30 of the following year.

**CRP - Annual Certification**

Before an annual rental payment can be issued, participants must certify to contract compliance using the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, or CCC-817U, Certification of Compliance for CRP.



**Change in Farming Operation**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.



**Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)**

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Signup in the ACRE option is also available through June 1 each year. If you elect the ACRE option, you are committed to this option through 2012, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. In 2011 you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Please note, the current statute does not provide for advance direct payments in 2012.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this online service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.egov.usda](http://www.eauth.egov.usda) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Final Date to apply for 2010 crop loan or LDP on feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.
May 31	Deadline to report Small Grain Acres
June 1	Deadline to Sign up for DCP and/or ACRE
July 15	Deadline to submit ACRE production
July 29	Deadline to request 2009 Crop SURE pmt
August 1	Deadline to report Feed Grain Acres