



## Seward County Farm Service Agency

March 2011

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### Office Hours

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

### Office Staff:

CJ Skinner -  
County Executive Director  
Paula Swan -  
Program Technician  
Pam Doerksen -  
Program Technician  
Patti Amerin -  
Program Technician  
Don Moore -  
Field Assistant

### Will Schnittker -

Farm Loan Manager  
Jim Murray -  
Farm Loan Officer

### Seward County FSA Committee:

Duane Bozarth, Chairman  
Fred Bloom, Vice-Chair  
Roger Eakes, Member

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### DCP/ACRE- Signup Ends June 1

FSA is taking appointments for 2011 program signup in either the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The final signup date is **June 1, 2011**.

**DCP** is the annual farm program that makes direct and counter-cyclical payments to producers. **ACRE** is the other option in lieu of traditional DCP counter-cyclical payments.

Producers who elect **ACRE** for a farm agree to: forgo counter-cyclical payments; take a 20-percent reduction in direct payments; and take a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. Once you make the election to enroll your farm into the ACRE program your decision is non-revocable through the 2012 program year (until the end of the 2008 farm bill).

### Acres Reporting

The final date to report 2011 crop acres small grains (wheat, barley, oats) is May 31, 2011. The final date to report corn, grain sorghum, forage sorghum, fallow, oilseeds, grass and CRP is August 1, 2011. Remember to annually file acreage reports on **all farmland**, not just cropland. Phone the county office for an appointment to certify 2011 acres.

### Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation

#### *Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

For commodity and disaster programs under the current farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity **shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000**. Also, under the current regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from *farm income* in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million can remain eligible for conservation programs if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

### TRANSITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

The TIP program encourages retired or retiring owners, or operators, to transition Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning farmers, and/or socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers or ranchers with less than 10 years of experience.

An approved TIP contract will provide annual rental payments to retiring farmers for up to two additional years after expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires the retiring farmer or rancher to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to a long-term lease of 5 years or more on the land in CRP. This transition contract (lease or sale) must be initiated by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires. Retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP that expires Sept. 30, 2011, should take action to enroll in TIP by that October 1 date.

### Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA farm programs can save you time and prevent a delay in your farm program benefits. The following are some FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, do not sign as Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and signature from one eligible parent  
*(Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)*
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

### Banking Changes

Since farm program payments are made electronically, please remember to report to us if you have changed banks or bank accounts. Keep this information current at FSA and report financial changes promptly. This includes those situations where one financial institution purchases or merges with another bank.

**Farm Loans Team Has Conservation Loans**

The Conservation Loan Program (CL) is available now to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the US to conserve our natural resources. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the NRCS, such as the installation of conservation structures; water conservation measures; waste management systems; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices or techniques. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing. If you have questions about a Conservation Loan please contact the Farm Loan program team at the Finney County FSA Office telephone number (620) 275-0211.

**General Signup 41 set to being March 14, 2011**

The Farm Service Agency will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. Accepted contracts for signup 41 will begin on October 1, 2011.

FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. Visit your local FSA office for more information concerning this CRP signup.

**NAP Sales Closing Date – March 15**

Applications for NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) for 2011 crops is March 15<sup>th</sup>. This March 15 deadline applies to **uninsurable sorghums**, vegetable and melon crops plus, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts.

You must complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable application closing date for the specific crop. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county with an \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. In the unfortunate event of a loss on a particular NAP crop, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent.

It is important to remember that the future **SURE** program for 2011 crops still has a Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) that will require all crops harvested on a farming operation to have federal crop insurance or NAP coverage, whichever coverage applies.

**NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING**

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you are required to report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date***

**SURE Program**

The Farm Service Agency is currently taking applications for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program. The 2009 SURE Program is for losses that occurred during the 2009 crop year.

In order to be eligible for the SURE Program, producers or landowners have to meet several eligibility criteria. Some of those items are as follows:

**Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR):**

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the FSA.

**Adjusted Gross Income (AGI):**

Persons or legal entities whose average nonfarm income exceeds \$500,000 are not eligible for SURE payments.

**Crop Certifications:**

In order to be eligible for the SURE program, producers and landowners must certify all crops that they either own or have an interest in. This certification includes crop on cropland or noncropland fields. Non-cropland fields would include native pasture land that they have cattle on, or grass that is left standing, but the producer still has an interest in the acreage.

**NRCS Programs**

**Windbreak Restoration** through EQIP-CCPI- Current Signup ends April 8<sup>th</sup>

**All Programs- Continuous Application Period**

If you are interested in the following practices, please call the NRCS office at 620-624-2421.

**Cropland:** furrow to sprinkler/drip, nutrient management incentives, strip-till/no-till incentives, irrigated to dryland incentives, irrigation water management incentives

**Grazing land:** perimeter fence on expired CRP, prescribed grazing incentives, cross-fence, pipelines, troughs, well, and wildlife enhancements

**Other:** drop nozzle packages, windbreaks, well pluggings, on-site septic systems

**Conservation Stewardship Program**

The CSP is a voluntary program that rewards farmers and ranchers for past conservation practices they have adopted on their land and encourages implementing at least one additional conservation activity. "The CSP has proven popular with stewardship-minded and conservation-conscious Kansas producers who have been stewards of the land for over 75 years," according to Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist. "So, it is only natural that Kansas is a leader in producers eligible for the program." Kansas producers enrolled over 1.2 million acres in 875 contracts for over \$17 million. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial forestland. Please visit with us at the NRCS office if you are interested.

**Dates to Remember**

Ongoing	SURE (disaster) sign up for 2009-crop losses
March 31	Deadline to request Loan/ LDP on 2010 crop small grains
May 31	Final date to request Loan or LDP on 2010 crop feed grains and oilseeds
May 31	Acreage reports due on 2011 Small Grains
June 1	Final date to enroll in DCP or ACRE programs