



**Smith County
Farm Service Agency**

February 28, 2011

319 Roger Barta Way
Smith Center KS 66967

PH 785-282-3832
FAX 785-282-6830
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

Office Staff

- Cary J. Tucker,**
County Executive Director
- Robert Pauley,**
Farm Loan Manager
- Bret Strine,**
Farm Loan Officer
- Marci Overmiller,**
Program Technician
- Judy Schmidt,**
Program Technician
- Cathy Lanus,**
Program Technician
- Cherie Herredsborg,**
Program Technician
- Lauren Webb,**
Program Technician
- Barb Johaneck,**
Program Technician

County Committee

- Darin Hawkins, Chair
- Dianna Rice, Vice Chair
- Craig Doane, Member

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, audiotape, 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.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The SURE signup began January 10, 2011. Producers with significant production losses for crop year 2009 may be eligible for SURE payments. SURE payments are based on production losses on a producer's "farm". "Farm" for SURE is defined as all crops in which a producer has an interest nationwide. To receive 2009 SURE payments the producer must have had all eligible crops insured through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or Federal Crop Insurance. Two exceptions to this rule are forage crops with an expected value less than \$9091 and crops with a value of less than 5 percent of the total expected value of all crops raised on the farm. The SURE program has two eligibility criteria. The first is that the producer suffers at least a 50 percent production loss of all crops on the farm. The other is that the producer has suffered at least a 10 percent loss on one crop and the county has received a Secretarial Disaster designation. Smith County has received a Secretarial Disaster designation for the 2009 crop year. SURE payments are based on 60 percent of the difference between the farm's SURE guarantee and the total farm revenue. The SURE guarantee is based on Federal Crop Insurance and NAP coverage on the farm. SURE program benefits will be available through the 2011 crop year. Producers must purchase NAP and Federal Crop Insurance on all eligible crops to receive SURE payments.

Grazing crops losses are covered under the Livestock feed Program (LFP). NAP coverage must be purchased to receive potential LFP payments.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) pays for livestock death losses caused by extreme weather events. Producers must maintain a reliable and verifiable inventory of all livestock.

ELAP covers honey bee, farm raised fish and grazing losses not covered by LFP. NAP coverage on every covered crop is required for ELAP benefits.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office at 785-282-3832, extension 106 and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

**FARM STORED FACILITY
LOANS**

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for new grain storage and in some cases added safety features and increased capacity of existing storage. These 7-12 year fixed rate loans can be made up to \$500,000. Hay and renewable biomass storage structures loans are also now available.

February 2011 Approved FSFL Loan Rates		
7-year up to \$50,000	10-year up to \$250,000	12-year up to \$500,000
2.75 %	3.375 %	3.625 %

**COUNTY OFFICE COMMITTEE
(COC) ELECTION**

Congratulations to Craig Doane on being elected to the COC for Local Administrative Area (LAA) three. The COC is your unique grass roots link to the USDA. The Smith County COC has actively sought change to better represent its constituency and will continue to do so in the future. FSA is greatly appreciative of Robert Koops' service on the COC the last 10 years.

**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINES**

SEP 1	Seeded Small Grains for Grazing (wheat, rye, Triticale)
DEC 1	Alfalfa, Grasses for Forage or Grazing, Honey, Oats for Forage, Mixed Forage (alfalfa/grass mix)
MAR 15	Sorghum (cane) for hay (sorghum silage must be insured by Federal Crop Insurance), millet, other spring planted forage crops except oats

Report all forage crop production losses within 15 days of the occurrence. Producers must keep a "contemporaneous diary" giving the date of harvest and number of bales and a representative number of scale tickets for each type of forage. Maintain all records for the current year and the immediate three past years for spot check purposes. NAP coverage is required for SAFE, LFP, and ELAP benefits.

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Farmers in Smith County, who suffered crop or livestock losses due to excessive rain, flooding, wind & hail occurring 05/06/10 to 06/20/10 may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.” Applications for assistance will be accepted by FSA until 05/09/2011.

Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant’s reasonable ability to pay.

FSA loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster.

FSA loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. “Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers, who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise, may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses.

Farmers and ranchers that think they may eligible should contact the FSA County Office in Smith Center, Kansas or call 785-282-6618 for information and how to apply.

REPORT FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land (including pasture), make sure you report the changes to the FSA within 30 days of the record change. Do not wait until DCP signup. Failure to report record changes within 30 days may cause the loss of all FSA benefits. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or signed contract for sale and the sales agreement. Ensure the sales agreement addresses all CRP and other FSA payment disposition.

SODBUSTING PURCHASED LAND, NEWLY RENTED ACREAGE AND EXPIRED CRP

Prior to sodbusting **any** acreage including expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and before planting a crop on newly purchased or rented acreage, check the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). Planting a crop on sodbusted acreage or on newly acquired land that does not have a fully implemented CPO will cause the loss of all USDA benefits on all acreage owned and operated. Form AD-1026 must be approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prior to breaking any acreage or planting a crop on acreage that does not have a completed CPO.

FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, (AFIDA), requires foreign persons, including corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, associations or like entities who acquire, transfer or hold interests in Ag land, to report these holdings and changes to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports must be submitted within 90 days of the date the land is bought, sold or transferred. Forms for reporting are available at any FSA office. Failure to timely file an accurate report may result in a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) SIGNUP

A general CRP signup will be held March 14 through April 15. Eligible acreage including expiring September 30, 2011 CRP contracts, acreage with an erodibility index of 8 or greater or acreage in a Conservation Priority Area (CPA) may submit a offer in this competitive signup. Smith County has acreage in a CPA located in all of Dor Township, and parts of Valley, Harvey, Houston, Banner, Harlan, Crystal Plains and Garfield Townships.

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) 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.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, 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. The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

Dates to Remember

Date	What
March 15	NAP Spring Forage Crop Purchase Deadline
March 14	CRP General Signup Start Date
June 1	DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
June 1	Wheat, Alfalfa, Grass, Reporting Deadline
March 31	Final Loan Availability Date: Wheat
May 31	Final Loan Availability Date: Spring Crops
August 1	Deadline to Request Farm Reconstitution