



Stafford County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

804 E. First Ave.
St. John, Kansas 67576

PH 620-549-3321
FAX 620-549-6502
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

COC Meeting Date
First Tuesday of the Month
9:00 AM

Office Staff
Stanley Woodward
County Executive Director
Ray Bartholomew
Farm Loan Manager
Mary Ann Kirkpatrick
Program Technician
Bob Mercer
Program Technician
Jessica Rewerts
Program Technician
Lory Scott
Program Technician

County Committee

Lyda Rutti
Chairperson
Tyler Alpers
Vice-Chairperson
Justin Vosburgh
Member

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County Committee Election

The Stafford County FSA Committee election in 2010 was held in Local Administrative area (LAA) #2, which includes the area east of hwy 281 and north of hwy 50. Tyler Alpers was elected to a three year term to the County Committee. Jon Siefkes was elected as First -Alternate to that position. The Stafford County Committee met on January 4, 2011, at that time the Committee was organized for 2011. For 2011, Lyda Rutti, St. John, was elected to serve as Chairperson. Tyler Alpers, St. John, will serve as Vice-Chairperson. Justin Vosburgh, Macksville, will serve as the Regular Member.

DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) ends on June 1, 2011. Producers may use the e-DCP automated website to signup, or producers can visit the Stafford County Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract. June 1 is also the final date to return all signatures for producers with a share greater than zero. USDA 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. For 2011, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. The Stafford County FSA Office is also taking Small Grain Acreage Reports. The final date to report wheat, barley, and oats acreage is May 31, 2011. Call the Stafford County Office at 620 549-3321 to make an appointment to enroll in DCP or ACRE and certify acres.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. Final date to sign-up for ACRE for 2011 is June 1, 2011.

FOREIGN INVESTORS 90-DAY REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

Request for Reasonable Accommodations

The Stafford County FSA Office will provide special accommodations, upon requests, for individuals with disability, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call Stanley Woodward, CED, 620-549-3321, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

Beginning Farmer Loans

Beginning Farmer Loans are available to individuals who have operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 years. This program includes a Down Payment Farm Ownership Loan to assist in land purchases. It also provides a means to transfer land to a future generation.

NAP Program March 15th Application Closing and Requirements

The deadline to accept applications under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for 2011 crops of coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops plus, and Cotton is March 15, 2011. Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Interested producers who may wish to participate in the NAP program must complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable sales 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 a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed with the local FSA office within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer. Producers are responsible for providing accurate and complete information. This includes timely certifying the unit's planted acreage and production with FSA. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop. Producers are limited to \$100,000 in benefits per person per crop year, they must not exceed the \$2 million gross revenue provisions, and they must comply with conservation compliance provisions in order to be determined eligible.

Dates to Remember	
February 21	Office Closed-President's Day
March 15	Deadline for Certain NAP Crops
May 31	Final date to report Wheat, Barley, and Oats acres
June 1	Final date to enroll in DCP & ACRE
July 29	Deadline for 2009 SURE Applications