



CLLOUD/REPUBLIC FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER



July 2009

www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Cloud Co. FSA – 1501 E 7th St., Concordia, KS 66901
Staff: Jolene Kindel, PT; Colleen Larsen, PT; Jana Carlson, PT; Terri Sicard, PT; Wayne Akers, CED.
County Committee (COC): Gary Holbert, Randy Lange, David Carlgren, Jane Snavely, Advisor
 COC meets the 1st Thursday of the month
Phone – 785-243-4438 **FAX** – 785-243-3602

Republic Co. FSA – 1319 23rd St., Belleville, KS 66935
Staff: Darcie Breuer, PT; Kerri Garman, PT; Cheryl Hiatt, PT; Cindy Kopsa, PT; Linda Trecek, PT; David McMullen, CED.
County Committee (COC): Darrell Carlson, Don Rizek, Brad Hobelmann, Esther Stafford, Advisor
 COC meets the 1st Wednesday of the month
Phone – 785-527-5573 **FAX** – 785-527-5113

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE)

Producers eligible for DCP will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). The optional ACRE program 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. The payment is based on 83.3 percent of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the State revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the State expected yield. For participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent and the marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. Under this farm bill, the ACRE election is permanent.

Farm 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 3** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link. Follow any instructions listed. Additional information can be obtained at your local FSA office.

Acres Reports – August 3 Deadline

Producers must report acres by applicable deadlines to maintain eligibility for most FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be certified on FSA-578 to remain eligible. All farmland, including hay and grazing land must be certified to remain eligible for disaster programs. **August 3** is the final date to report the spring seeded crops. Failure to report timely will require filing a late filed acreage report. The cost for the late filed acreage report will at minimum be \$46 per farm.

*****Please call your FSA office for an appointment.*****

Informational Meetings – Please Attend if Possible!

Two informational meetings will be held. The first one will be July 14 in Belleville at the Republic Co. Fair Grounds 4H building and the other one July 16 at Concordia in Cook Theater at Cloud County Community College. Both meetings will start at 7:00 P.M. The ACRE Program provisions will be discussed. County Committee Election will also be discussed.

County Committee Elections

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 the LAA whose committee member's three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election each year. This year LAA number 2 in both Cloud and Republic Co.'s will hold an election. **Cloud Co.'s LAA 2** is comprised of Summit, Arion, Lincoln, Center, Nelson, and Aurora Townships. **Republic Co.'s LAA 2** is comprised of Beaver, Belleville, Courtland, Scandia, Norway, and Lincoln Townships.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted through **August 3, 2009**.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on **August 3**, or postmarked by midnight **August 3, 2009**.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest or a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details on specific crops are available at your county FSA office.
(2009 Wheat Loan rates – Cloud \$2.64; Republic \$2.61)

Sodbusting

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. *Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.* In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

Farm Loan. FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit and who meet other regulatory criteria. Loans up to \$5,000 are available to rural youths 10-20 years old to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Emergency loans are available to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared disaster areas by the president, or designated as such by the secretary of agriculture or the FSA administrator.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to: New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage; Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility; Remodeling existing storage facilities. Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."