



**Atchison County**

FSA Office

605 6<sup>th</sup> Street

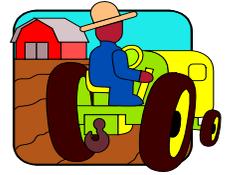
Effingham, KS 66023

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County Committee Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

# USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



**July 2010**

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Farm Programs:

Diane Kiehl, Jayne Wehking, Cindy Harden,  
Susan Sprang, Rick Abel

Farm Loan Programs:

Kathy Hawk, Pam Oswald, Eric Guenther,  
Bruce Nutsch

## REPORT PLANTED ACREAGE BY AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>

August 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for timely reports of 2010 plantings of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and other acreage not devoted to small grains. We will need to know your shares, planting dates, acreage, and intended use of the crop. Small grains reported after June 1 will incur a late file fee of \$46 per farm. All other crops reported after August 2<sup>nd</sup> will incur a late-filing fee as well. Acreage reporting is a requirement for participation in DCP, ACRE, CRP, commodity loan program, disaster programs, and for eligibility for loan deficiency payments, if applicable. To remain eligible for benefits under the 2010 Supplement Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), you must report all mechanically harvested and grazed acreage of cropland and non-cropland that you have interest in.

## CRP ACREAGE

There are currently 5,435 acres of CRP in Atchison County. If you are a participant, your responsibilities have included developing and implementing a plan to establish a stand of approved grass or grass mix on the contract acreage. Once established, the grass must be maintained, and efforts taken to ensure the control of erosion, noxious weeds, brush, prohibiting unauthorized uses such as haying or grazing, or storing hay or equipment on CRP. Authorized maintenance actions include burning, mowing, fertilizing, and herbicide application. Timing of all these actions is critical to their effectiveness, and no activity on CRP is allowed during the primary nesting season without prior written consent from FSA. The nesting season begins on April 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on July 15<sup>th</sup>. As a contract holder, each participant is responsible for inspecting and taking action necessary to ensure the approved conservation plan of operations applicable to the contract, is carried out. NRCS is your Technical Service Provider (TSP). Any concerns you have about the condition of your CRP acreage should be discussed with NRCS, and any recommendations made by NRCS should be carried out. FSA completes CRP inspections on a percentage of the total CRP acres annually. When concerns are noted, FSA works with NRCS on corrective action. If necessary, concerns are reviewed with the Atchison County FSA Committee for consideration of action to penalize, or in extreme situations, terminate acreage from the CRP program.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION PERIOD

Nominations for a position on the Atchison County Committee are being accepted through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The position up for election is Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, and is currently being held by James Hale. LAA #3 is all of Atchison County that is located in Shannon, Mt Pleasant, and Walnut Townships. Ballots will be mailed on November 5<sup>th</sup> to all eligible voters of record, and ballots can be returned through December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in running for this position, or have questions about the nomination process and eligibility to vote or hold office, please contact this office for more information.

## GENERAL CRP SIGNUP SCHEDULED

USDA has indicated that FSA will soon hold a general signup period for producers interested in enrolling eligible cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program. Eligibility criteria that is yet to be established includes adjusted soil rental rates for the county, and the base period for cropping requirements. An announcement about the signup dates will be made by the Kansas State FSA Office as soon as it is received. CRP pays participants an annual rental payment in return for converting cropland to grass. Harvesting of cover from CRP during the contract period is prohibited. If requested, cost-share to seed the grass cover is available. Making an offer to participate in CRP does not guarantee acceptance. Since CRP targets environmentally sensitive land, an environmental benefit index (EBI) score is assigned to each offered contract and compared to all other contracts across the nation. At the end of the signup period, USDA establishes an EBI threshold that ensures the targeted CRP acreage is offered a CRP contract. Historically, CRP contract periods have ranged from 10 to 15 years.

## CRP INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

For more information about what CRP offers, the FSA staff will be holding an informational program in the conference room of the USDA Service Center in Effingham, at 2:00 pm and again at 7:00 pm, on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to attend and ask questions.

## FARM RECORDS AND BANK CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as practical to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased, or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes of shares, changes of operator or tenant, etc. If you have changed banks, or bank accounts, keep in mind that this will affect your direct deposit of program benefits. A new direct deposit request must be made at the FSA office for account number or routing number changes.





## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of

the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



## Rural Youth Loans

With the approach of the county fair season, it is also time to start planning for the next year's projects. Show steers and/or heifers are purchased in the fall and early winter for the next years project. Your idea of a supervised project may not be of show animals but to start a cowherd, raising feeder calves, buying feeder pigs, renting land to farm or an agribusiness related project. The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

**FSA Website** -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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