



# FSA FARM NEWS

SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



**Douglas County FSA Office**  
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**County Committee Meeting Date:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m.

**May 2010**

**Douglas County FSA Committee:**  
Jane Edmonds  
Kent Nunemaker  
Kennith Whaley  
Johnathon Alley, CED

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS RESULTS

Our office would like to welcome Kent Nunemaker back to the Douglas County FSA Committee. Kent, a North Lawrence farmer and cattleman, was elected to serve as the county committeeman for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. Kent began his three year term on January 1, 2010. In addition, Charlene Winter was elected to serve as the first alternate for LAA #1. We look forward to working with each of them in the future! Congratulations, Kent and Charlene! 151 ballots were counted for this year's election.

We would also like to thank Bill Leslie for serving on the county committee for the past three years. His efforts along with his vast farming experience, dedication and commitment have contributed to the success of the county committee system. Thanks again, Bill!

## DCP AND ACRE

Sign-up for the Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) programs for the 2010 crop year has begun. The DCP and ACRE programs require an annual contract signed by all participants. The last date to sign-up in both programs is **June 1, 2010**. Advance payments are available to those interested producers upon approval of the contract. Visit your local FSA office to complete your 2010 contracts.

## ACREAGE REPORTS ARE REQUIRED

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from farm programs, Marketing Assistance Loans, Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for which Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is purchased must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **May 31** for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by **August 1**. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the **May 31** and **August 1** deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit.

## IRS DISCLOSURE FORM

Producers have until June 15 to provide the CCC-927 for individuals or CCC-928 for entities to IRS to remain eligible for 2009 and 2010 payments. FSA will not receive any income tax information from IRS. IRS will only confirm a producer's AGI compliance.

Ensure that the form is completed correctly and that the name entered on the form is how you file your taxes. Example: If you farm under a Trust, but file your taxes under your individual name, then you should record your individual name on the form (not the Trust). If all fields are not completed correctly, IRS will reject the form. Do not send the form to FSA; it must be mailed directly to the IRS address at the top of the form. Failure to submit a form to the IRS may result in refund of 2009 and 2010 payments. You may obtain a copy of the form at the FSA county office or on-line at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), then click on Forms.

## DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## JUMP START ON 2011 COST SHARE

Get a jump start on the FY 2011 cost-share sign-up process. The Douglas County Conservation District administers the local State Water Resources and Non-Point Source Cost-Share Programs with funds allocated through the Kansas Water Plan Fund. Cost share applications will be available beginning April 1, 2010. Application deadline will be May 28, 2010. The applications will be ready to be reviewed at the August District Board meeting and begin allocating funds; if available from the State, at that time.

While you are preparing for the coming planting season, make a mental note of areas where erosion is occurring.

Is a conservation structural practice needed to correct the problem?

Would you like to plant a field into brome or native grass? Or add field borders, filter strips, or buffers?

Do your pastures need cross-fences for better grazing management? Or perhaps an alternative livestock watering facility?

Do you have a failing on-site wastewater system?

Would you like to plug an abandoned well? Did you realize that if a well has not been used within two years, the state of Kansas requires that well to be plugged?

Stop by the Douglas County Conservation District to apply for your cost-share assistance or call 785-843-4260.

## RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.



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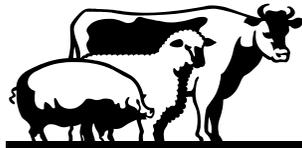
## LIVESTOCK DEATHS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, extreme heat and extreme cold.

It will be the producer's responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. LIP regulations require that producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent, and file an application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurs.

When an application is filed, participants must provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths claimed on the application. Livestock owners and livestock contract growers that cannot provide any proof of death must provide verifiable documentation of their livestock inventory when the deaths occurred.

There are no late-filed provisions for the LIP program. That means, that if for any reason you wait to file your application after the deadline is past, then the county office won't be able to approve it. For more details about LIP, contact our office.



## ----- CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE -----

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office.

## ---- QUICK REMINDERS ----

- Sign up deadline for the **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and ACRE** is June 1, 2010. Contracts with all applicable signatures must be on file by this date. There are no late file provisions.
- In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.
- County committees play a vital role in helping to ensure that FSA agricultural programs adequately serve the needs of county producers. Each year farmers and ranchers elect a member to the county committee. To learn more about the election process and the requirements to nominate or be nominated, come to the USDA Service Center for an informational meeting to be held June 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. This year's election will be held in Local Administrative Area #3.
- USDA Service Centers will be closed on **May 31, 2010** in observance of Memorial Day.

## CRP MAINTENANCE

This is the perfect time to start checking your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage to determine and plan any needed maintenance items. Your review should include, but not be limited, to the following:

Checking acreage for:

- The presence of noxious weeds including Johnsongrass, Musk Thistle, Bindweed and Sericea Lespedeza.
- The presence of volunteer trees including cedars, locust, elm, dogwood, sumac and hedge.
- The proper maintenance of approved cover including adequate fertilizer and preventing haying, grazing, or other unauthorized use of CRP acres.
- Required management activities. Are they being performed according to the conservation plan?
- The presence of roads and trails.
- The presence of equipment and feed storage.

Corrective action should be completed if any of these conditions are found. Our office will be conducting spotchecks to ensure CRP acreage is in compliance with program provisions.