

County Committee:

Carolyn Michael, Chairperson
Joe Murphy, Vice-Chairperson
Larry Richard, Member
*(Committee meets 2nd Thursday of each month
at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center)*

US Department of Agriculture

Crawford County FSA Office
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Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm

MAY 2010

Judy A. Jacquinat
County Executive Director



Signup Deadline Approaching!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is underway and will continue through June 1, 2010. All required

DCP/ACRE signatures must be received by June 1, 2010. There will be no late file provisions.

FSA 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. You may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that began in crop year 2009. ACRE offers producers an alternative to direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. ACRE benefits are earned when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers also agree to a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year. Deadline to enroll: June 1, 2010.

Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Participants must submit an accurate and timely report of all cropland, non-cropland, prevented planting, and subsequent crop acreage for the farm in all counties for program benefits. Producers will also need to provide planting dates. 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.

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. Reports taken after these deadlines are subject to a late-filed fee to cover the cost of a field inspection to verify presence of the crop.



Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. *The eligible adverse weather events include losses because of floods, blizzards, wildfires, lightning, tornado, extreme heat, extreme cold, and disease exacerbated by adverse weather.* Applicants must provide verifiable and reliable documentation of the livestock deaths and inventory to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days after the death is apparent.



SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

Provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. We are currently taking applications for 2008 losses. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is not required for crops that are not of economic significance. The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition.
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses.

The SURE program is a "total farm" disaster program. Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.



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.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fees by the application closing date. Must have NAP coverage on all noninsurable crops to be eligible for supplemental disaster assistance programs.

Application Closing Dates:

September 1 – aquaculture, barley, canola, Christmas trees, nursery crops, rye, spelts, triticale, turf grass sod, and wheat.

December 1 – all grasses, alfalfa, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, caneberrries, cherries, clover, grapes, lespedeza, honey, mixed forage, nectarines, oats, peaches, plums, strawberries, and vetch.

January 1 – apples and pears.

March 15 – coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts.

NAP Service Fees:

- \$250 per crop; \$750 per county; \$1875 per producer for all counties.

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.



FSA GUARANTEED LOANS

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g. banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions), with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Farm Operating purposes.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own acreage in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227, Ext 229. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

COC Election Period

- **June 15, 2010** - The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>
- **Aug. 2, 2010** - Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center
- **Nov. 5, 2010** - Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Dec. 6, 2010** - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- **Jan. 1, 2011** - Newly elected county committee members take office

SAFE Habitat

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to enhance high priority wildlife habitat in Kansas. The CRP practice CP38E "SAFE Habitat for Upland Game Birds" project will assist to design, install and maintain permanent upland bird nesting and brood-rearing habitat on any cropland, or the dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems. Acres are intended to be islands of edge habitat in a cropped field. Acres may be enrolled anywhere within the cropped field. Contracts are for 10-15 years. Land must meet basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001. Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres in size, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

CRP Maintenance

CRP participants are reminded of their responsibility to perform annual CRP maintenance as specified in their Conservation Plan of Operations. That means obtaining a stand of grass, controlling noxious weeds, controlling brush and trees, and any other actions needed to maintain the CRP cover. A major problem in this state is the invasion of undesirable plants including trees that adversely impact the permanent grassland cover. FSA will be conducting inspections of CRP to determine contract violations.



CROP LOAN AVAILABILITY

To be eligible for a loan, operators and owners must have beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is either repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Producers must also be in compliance with acreage reporting provisions, and CCC minimum grade and quality standards. Participation in the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or (ACRE) Program is not necessary to be eligible for loans. Loan rates for Crawford Co. are as follows: Wheat (SRW), \$1.74/bu.; Wheat (HRW), \$2.79/bu.; Corn, \$2.07/bu.; Grain Sorghum, \$3.50/cwt.; and Soybeans, \$4.99/bu.

Dates to Remember

May 31	Certify small grain acreage
May 31	Final date to obtain loan or LDP on feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.
June 1	Final date to apply for 2010 DCP or ACRE.
Jun 15	Final date to submit the IRS Disclosure form to IRS
Aug 1	Certify all other crops and CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	SURE sign up for 2008 crop losses.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program