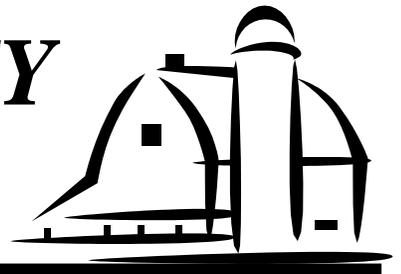


November
2009

NEOSHO COUNTY FSA TODAY



Neosho County FSA

124 W. State
Erie, KS 66733
620-244-3491
donna.sifers@ks.usda.gov

Office Hours

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed Legal Holidays

Office Staff

Donna Sifers, CED
Teresa Cox, PT
Marcia Fickel, PT
Renae Lucas, PT

Farm Loan Staff

620-724-6227
Robert White, FLM
Jason Love, FLO
Debra Bolin, FLPT
Barbara Brown, FLPT

County Committee

Teresa Bogner, Chair
Donald Taylor, Vice Chair
Rex Houghton, Member

COC meets second
Tuesday each month
at 9:00 AM

FSA Web Sites

Kansas
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
National
www.fsa.usda.gov
USDA
www.usda.gov

2010 DCP AND ACRE SIGN UP

Sign up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun, and will continue through **June 1, 2010**. Producers can sign up by visiting an FSA county office or by electronic services. To sign up electronically producers must have an active USDA authentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification. Producers are encouraged to mark their calendar and allow plenty of time for enrollment. Late filed applications will not be accepted into the program.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund, LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for 2009 livestock losses. For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
7/13/09 to 12/31/09	30 days after the death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

“Lender of First Opportunity”

FSA has programs that can help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! Loan assistance is available for eligible: Beginning farmers and ranchers • Rural Youths • Socially disadvantaged producers • Established farmers suffering setbacks • Farmers with limited resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,112,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. Youth loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations. Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice.

PRODUCER PAYMENT TRANSACTION STATEMENTS

FSA payment processing has recently gone through some updates. These updates are necessary for advances in technology as well as to meet the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill. Because of these changes, producer's transaction statements may reflect that a portion of the final 2009 Direct or annual Conservation Reserve payments were offset to payoff a debt that the producer did not even know existed. Let us help solve this mystery. The debts referenced on the producer's transaction statement in most cases are not true overpayments. They are simply an internal process that FSA computers have performed to subtract the previously issued 2009 DCP advance direct payments. Although this sounds simple, it is difficult to see this on the transaction statement because our computer system is subtracting the advance from the first available payment(s) to be issued and does not match up programs and or specific farm numbers. In fact, it is possible if you are a multi-county producer, final payments from one county will clear the advance payment debt from another county. In the end when looking at producer's payments as a whole for all farms and all counties and the applicable program, the payments reflect the amount due. We apologize for the inconvenience this new system may have caused, but we understand it will be much better for producers in the future. FSA appreciates your patience. Your local FSA county office employees are available to help if you need additional clarification of the new updated transaction statement.

MEET THE COC CANDIDATES

Ballots for the 2010 farmer elected committee were mailed around November 6th. The seat up for election is LAA 1, held by Donald Taylor for many years. The nominees on the ballot you receive are Debra Cox and Mike Duling.

Debra Cox lives northwest of Chanute where she farms with her husband Alan. They grow corn, soybeans, wheat and have a cow/calf herd. Debbie became full time in the farm operation ten years ago after working as a bank bookkeeper. She has served on the Neosho County Extension board, Big Creek Church board and is currently a 4-H club leader. The Cox's have three children ages 24, 22 and 20, with the youngest currently completing her final year of college.

Mike Duling lives southeast of Kimball in Walnut Grove township with his wife Barbara. Mike has been involved in various farming operations his entire life. Currently, Mike is busy managing a custom harvesting / custom hay baling operation with his son Ryan. Mike is also involved in several cattle operations with his brother Kevin and son-in-law Justin. Mike and Barbara have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Voted ballots must be returned or postmarked by December 7, 2009.



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.





SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (SURE)

Producers who suffered a crop loss in **2008** will be eligible to sign-up for SURE within the next few weeks. SURE is one of the new disaster programs implemented with the 2008 Farm Bill. The program is different from the Crop Disaster Programs we implemented in the past where a specific crop could generate a payment without consideration of other crops. SURE payments are calculated by looking at all crops, on all farms, in all counties. Payments are earned when the total revenue is less than the expected revenue. However, before FSA can consider the revenue, there must first be an eligible crop loss caused by a natural disaster. Also the county or contiguous county must have a Secretarial Disaster declaration or a producer must show he/she has a 50 percent production loss. We are expecting publication of Federal regulations very soon. FSA State and County employees will receive training in the next few weeks. More details of the program will be available in the county office after release of the regulations.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program (FSFL) provides low interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The following are eligible commodities for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other than whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass

A FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started. All loans must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum loan amount is \$500,000 per loan. CCC can loan up to 85% of the net cost of the eligible facility and equipment. Terms are 7, 10 or 12 years depending on the amount of the loan. The interest rate is fixed for the entire length of the loan and is based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is initially approved. Loans will not be disbursed until the facility has been erected and inspected with the exception of one qualifying partial disbursement. Each applicant will be charged a nonrefundable \$100 application fee. CCC will pay all collateral lien searches and recording fees for filing form UCC-1 and credit reports. Applicants pay for all other fees such as severance agreements, attorney fees, real estate lien searches, instrument-filing fees and for loans over \$50,000 a title search/opinion or title insurance.

FARM RECORD CHANGES/RECONSTITUTIONS

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. Farms may also consist of tracts under different ownership as long as each tract of land represents singular ownership. 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. Changes to ownership should be reported as soon as the change is known or when a producer no longer has an interest in the crop or crops being grown on the farm.

FILING OF LOSS/PREVENTED PLANTING

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report prevented planting of program crops and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office. If the acreage remains idle for the crop year or is later planted to an eligible double crop, the county committee can approve the acreage for credit if there is evidence the crop would have been planted timely had it not been for excess rainfall. If the acreage is planted to a subsequent crop, the application will be disapproved and the acreage will be considered planted to the crop in the field. Committees have the authority to disapprove the prevented planted acreage application if it is believed the crop could have been planted timely. In this case, the acreage will be reported as fallow. Producers should provide documentation that shows the intention to plant such as fertilizer, seed or chemical invoices, or crop insurance evidence. Applications for prevented planting must be filed no later than fifteen days after the final planting date. For Neosho County, the final report date for prevented planted wheat is November 30.

CCRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) 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. Providing participants and acreage meet eligibility criteria, 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, please contact your local FSA office.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop throughout the loan period. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be marketable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Neosho County loan rates for 2009 crops are:

- Corn \$1.95 bu.
 - Soybeans \$5.00 bu.
 - Grain Sorghum \$3.40 cwt.
- November interest rate is 2.375%,

