



McPherson FSA Highlights



JULY 2010

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATION DEADLINE AUGUST 2nd!

County Committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 2, 2010, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. **Nomination forms** for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 2, 2010**. This year's election for McPherson County will be held in LAA-1 which is the townships of Marquette, Union, South Sharps Creek, Harper, Castle, Jackson, McPherson and Hayes.

ELECTION CALENDAR

AUGUST 2

Nomination Deadline

NOVEMBER 5

Ballots Mailed to Voters

DECEMBER 6

Ballot Deadline

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 5, 2010. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 6, 2010.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) UPDATE!

McPherson County has 9,513 acres currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with 1,629 acres expiring on September 30, 2010.

Secretary Vilsack announced a general CRP signup will be conducted by FSA this year with a specific signup date to be announced soon. Producers interested in submitting an offer during general signup should watch media sources for official announcement over the next few months.

Signup for Continuous CRP practices is available on an ongoing basis. Landowners or operators may enroll filter strips, buffers, etc that are flexible enough to meet your wildlife and conservation needs. A number of practices have signing and practice incentive payments in addition to the annual rental payment.

SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST REQUIREMENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 1

- Final Date to Request a Reconstitution

AUGUST 2

- Nomination Deadline
- Acreage Report Deadline

SEPTEMBER 1

- 2009 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline

ONGOING

- Continuous CRP
- 2008 SURE Losses
- July Commodity Loan Interest Rate – 1.375%
- Report any change within 30 days.

WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM

Every Tuesday at 7:25 AM

KBBE – KNGL

96.7 FM – 1540 AM

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

It is responsibility of all farm participants to timely report any changes as program benefits may be affected. **REMINDER:** A power of attorney is no longer valid once a person is deceased. Please report any changes to farms or producers within 30 days to the FSA Office.

CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 2nd!

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's).

A FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must be filed for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The acreage certification deadline for all spring seeded crops including double-crop or subsequent crop, grass, NAP acreage, and CRP acreage is **August 2**. If you participate in CRP these acres are to be reported annually.

REMINDER: A complete acreage report is required to remain eligible for a number of disaster programs which includes any pasture, hay meadows, etc. in which you have an interest.

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop was prevented or failed because of natural disaster conditions.

If you want to remain eligible for SURE benefits then you must report ALL crops, in ALL counties, in which you have a share and risk. This includes crops on cropland and/or noncropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed or grazed.

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOAN GRAIN

If loan grain has been disposed of through drilling, feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the FSA office before anything is done with grain that is under loan.

FSA FARM LOANS

FSA 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.



RURAL YOUTH LOANS

FSA 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.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or 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 that 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 a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

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

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.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM CONTACT INFO

McPherson County producers are serviced by the FSA-FLP office located in the Salina USDA Service Center.

The phone number is (785) 825-8269.

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.

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