



RICE County FSA News

NOVEMBER 2009

RICE COUNTY FSA

1480 W US HWY 56, RM 101
Lyons, KS 67554-9209
TEL: (620) 257-5184
FAX: (620) 257-2653

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Farm Loan Programs:

By appointment for Rice County visits:
(620) 669-8161

County Committee

Howard M Behnke, Chairperson
Mark A Engelland, Vice-Chairperson
Eric D Kratzer, Member
Margaret Scheufler, Advisor
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Rodney Ackerman, CED
Judy Borgen, Program Technician
Tammy Clark, Program Technician
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician
Margaret Chain, Program Technician
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.67/bu
Corn	\$1.98/bu
Soybeans	\$4.91/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.35/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.59/cwt
Barley	\$1.80/bu

RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

Dec 1, 2009: Deadline to pay NAP fee(s) for small grains for grazing or forage (hay) this includes wheat, barley and triticale, alfalfa, oats forage (hay), and grass for grazing or forage.

Dec 7 – Final date to return completed COC Election Ballot for election in LAA-1.

Dates FSA offices will be closed:

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

December 25 – Christmas Day

January 1, 2010 – New Years Day

Jan. 18, 2010 – Martin Luther King Day

February 15, 2010 – Presidents Day

2010 DCP SIGNUP

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway. **We plan to mail the 2010 CCC-509 contracts to the operators in the next few weeks.** Operators will be responsible for making sure all applicable forms are properly completed and timely submitted.

The 2010 program will be the same as 2009. Farms with bases of 10.0 acres or less are not eligible for DCP or ACRE unless owned by producers who meet the FSA definition of a socially disadvantaged applicant (SDA) or a limited resource producer. Shares of payments must follow the share and risk of planted crops as in the past.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using 83.3% of the base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Along with sign-up, producers will be asked if there are any changes to their farming operations (ie... changes in land owned and or operated, newly established entities such as Trusts, Inc., LLC's, etc..). All producers requesting payments will be required to complete a new CCC-926, AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) STATEMENT for 2010. Signup for the 2010 DCP program will end June 1. All signatures must be in the office by close of business on June 1. Late filed provisions do not apply.

2010 ACRE SIGNUP

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. **The ACRE program signup is held in conjunction with the regular DCP signup.** ACRE payments are revenue-based payments and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted, and considered planted, covered commodity crops or peanuts on the farm. ACRE payment acreage is limited to the total amount of base acres on the farm, and can only be issued for a crop if two triggers are met for the covered commodity crop or peanuts.

- State Trigger: The Actual State Revenue for the program year must be less than the State ACRE Guarantee.
- Farm Trigger: The participating farm's Actual Farm Revenue for the program year must be less than the Farm ACRE Guarantee.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

REMEMBER: ONCE IN ACRE ALWAYS IN ACRE.

For more information on ACRE check out the FSA website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots have been mailed to voters in LAA-1 (Farmer, Eureka, Victoria, Pioneer, Lincoln and Harrison townships) Karon Miller, Jacob Behnke and Jason Meyeres are the candidates for this year's election. **Please take the time to vote and return your ballot.** Ballots must be returned to FSA or postmarked no later than December 7th. Voting by PROXY/POA is prohibited. Remember to sign the ballot. Unsigned ballots are invalid and are not tabulated. **Each County Committee (COC)** member is elected by the eligible producers in their area for a 3 year term. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them, including DCP, price support and farm loan programs, and conservation and disaster programs.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Payments made electronically using Direct Deposit has cut down on the number of missing or late payments. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit.

Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Treasury will issue funds and this is called check centralization. The benefit of Direct Deposit is payment will be deposited within 2-3 days. If you do not have Direct Deposit a check will be delayed 7-10 days.

Any changes to your account or financial institution will have an effect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA Office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.



CRP and DCP PAYMENTS ISSUED

FSA has issued CRP and Final DCP payments for 2009. Payment Statements are now mailed from the Kansas City Accounting Office for the entire country and not the local FSA county office. Therefore, producers may receive their electronic payment in their bank account before they receive their Payment Statement in the mail. Producers should be aware that a new web-based payment system is being used for all FSA payments.

The DCP Advance Direct Payments equal to 22 percent of the total earned were issued last spring on the old payment system. Because of that, when the DCP Final Direct Payments were issued, there was no way for the new web-based payment system to know that 22 percent of the total payment was already issued. Therefore, all the Advance Direct Payments were set up as receivables on the new payment system so they would be subtracted from the Total Direct Payment calculated on the new payment system. However, if there were multiple receivables for different farms and counties they were totaled to one amount and subtracted from the first Direct Payment issued for the producer no matter what farm or what county.

Producers should review all their Payment Statements for all farms in all counties to determine if the Total Final Direct Payments received on all farms in all counties is the Total Direct Payments less the Total Advance Direct Payments.

BURN WORKSHOP

Area producers can learn about using prescribed burning in a workshop to be held December 1, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Rice County Extension Office in Lyons. The Prescribed Burning Workshop is hosted by a coalition of local agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, and the Rice County Conservation District. The workshop is designed to give producers a better understanding of what is involved with conducting a prescribed burn.

Workshop topics to be covered include: CRP Maintenance and Management Practices; Burn Considerations: Why and When to Burn; Burn Notification and Local Regulations; Producer Panel; Using a Burn Contractor; Burn Terminology and Fire Behavior; Burning Techniques; Planning and Conducting a Burn; and Burn Equipment. The program will include some local producers who have used burning as part of their management. K-State Range Management Specialist, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and local FSA and NRCS representatives will be some of the speakers.

Lunch is being provided by the Rice County Conservation District and Rice County Extension Service. Pre-registration is requested by November 24th, 2009, and can be made by calling the Rice County Conservation District Office at 620-257-5184.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that a second application period for CSP will be held through January 2010.

Lands accepted into CSP include private agricultural land (cropland, pastureland, and rangeland) and nonindustrial private forestland—a new land use for the program—and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Operators, with control of the land, are eligible to apply for CSP assistance.

CSP provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural and forestry producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land; and encourages producers to voluntarily implement more conservation practices and improve, maintain, and manage existing ones.

For additional information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, the interim final rule, and to submit comments please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp or visit your local NRCS field office or Kansas Web site at ks.nrcs.usda.gov.