



# Harvey County FSA News



SEPTEMBER 2009

**Harvey County FSA**  
 1405 South Spencer  
 Newton, KS 67114-4126  
 TEL: (316) 283-0370  
 FAX: (316) 283-2379

**Service Center Hours**  
 Monday – Friday  
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**County Committee**  
 Gary Harms, Chairperson  
 Sondra Cowan, Vice-Chairperson  
 Robert Dreier, Member  
**COC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month @ 9:00 a.m.**

### Employee Information

Jack Kelly, County Exec Director  
 Linda Olsen, Program Technician  
 Lynette Guhr, Program Technician  
 Brenda Rucker, Program Technician  
 Michelle Mosiman, Program Technician  
 Steve Koerner, Field Assistant  
 Ray Bartholomew, Farm Loan Manager  
 Sheri Grinstead, Farm Loan Officer  
 Katie Johnson, Program Technician  
 Haley Eck, Program Technician

Farm Service Agency online   
 FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2009
Wheat	\$2.66/bu
Corn	\$2.00/bu
Soybeans	\$4.97/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.42/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.52/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

#### 2009 dates FSA offices will be closed:

**October 12** – Columbus Day

**November 11** – Veterans Day

**November 26** – Thanksgiving Day

**December 25** – Christmas Day

### NEW LIVESTOCK LOSS PROGRAM

The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred **livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality as a result of adverse weather**. Eligible disaster conditions may include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, tornados, lightning, hurricanes, and wildfires. Federal Regulations for LIP were published on July 2, 2009. Signup for LIP started July 13, 2009.

Producers will need to provide documentation detailing the proof of death to indicate that the livestock deaths are a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. It will also be necessary for producers to provide documents detailing the quantity and kind, type and weight range of livestock that died as a result of the adverse weather event. Documentation may include, but is not limited to the following: bank or other loan documents, FEMA records, tax records, National Guard records, private insurance documents, production records, property tax records, purchase records, rendering truck receipts, veterinarian records, and written contracts.

In the event verifiable documentation is not available, producers will be required to present reliable records documenting the proof of death along with verifiable beginning and ending livestock inventory.

The final date to file a notice of loss is **30 days following the death loss** for the balance of 2009. Application for payment for 2009 losses can be filed after the notice of loss, but must be filed by **January 30, 2010**. Contact our office for details.

### CRP Maintenance

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) agreed when signing their 10-15 year contract to maintain these acres according to the program guidelines. That means attaining a stand of grass, controlling noxious weeds, controlling brush and trees, and taking any other actions needed to adequately maintain the CRP cover.

### NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" **within 15 days of when a loss is apparent**, due to drought, hail, etc.

### FSA Farm Loans to Family Sized Farms

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for eligible farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

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 \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

### 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 affect on the deposit of your FSA payments. Please contact our office so we may guide you through the process of updating your records.*

### Foreign Investors

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction **within 90 days** of the date of the transaction.

### 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 can not 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

Nominations have been completed for a position on the three-member Harvey County FSA Committee. The area hosting the election this year is Local Administrative Area 2 which includes the *townships of Garden, Emma, Highland, Halstead and Macon*. All currently active farm/ranch owners or operators are eligible to vote in this election. Ballots will be mailed out in early November, and must be returned to the applicable county office by December 7, 2009.

### Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farms records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables
- cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

**Check** the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

**Producers** planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

**Control** trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

**If you are delinquent** on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.



#### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

"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."