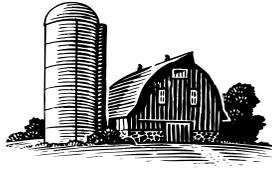




APRIL 2009

# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5431 phone  
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**County Committee:**  
Ken Foster, Chair  
Darlene Ferguson, Vice  
Chair  
David Dhooghe, Mem-  
ber

County Committee  
meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednes-  
day of each month

**Office Staff:**  
Kitra Cooper, CED  
Annetta Henry, PT  
Sally McKinzie, PT  
Dawn Thompson, PT  
Julie Ryan, PT  
Jim Dark, FLM  
Michelle Cerne, FLO

**Field Staff:**  
Leon Pearce  
Trey Thompson

*Food for Thought:*

Nothing is a  
waste of time if  
you use the  
experience  
wisely.

--Auguste Rodin

*"If you want to make  
enemies, try to  
change something."  
— Woodrow Wilson*

*Food for Thought:*

*"If you want to make  
enemies, try to  
change something."  
— Woodrow Wilson*

## DCP AND ACRE SIGNUP DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 14, 2009

USDA has pushed the signup deadline for both the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program back to August 14, 2009. Final procedure and software are still being developed and there were concerns that the original June 1 deadline would not give producers ample time to make participation decisions for these programs.

Farms with less than 10.0 acres of DCP base are not eligible for the program signup, unless a producer is considered Socially Disadvantaged or Limited Resource. Also, producers who cash lease farms must now provide a complete written cash lease agreement, or obtain the landowner's signature on the contract. If the same cash lease was in effect the prior year, the operator may certify to the cash lease terms on a form CCC-510, but will not receive DCP payments until after July 1, 2009.

The DCP Program functions in the same manner it did during the previous farm bill. However, ACRE is an optional component of the DCP program developed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. Signup is proposed to begin the end of April.

ACRE is designed to provide a revenue guarantee each year based on national market prices and state average yields for each commodity. Producers enrolled in ACRE, will give up 20% of their Direct payments, all Counter-Cyclical payments, and take a 30% loan rate reduction. In exchange, they may receive an ACRE payment, which is triggered if the ACRE actual State revenue is less than 90% of the ACRE program guarantee, AND the producer's ACRE actual farm revenue is less than the ACRE benchmark farm revenue. ACRE election is by farm number, and may be selected any year. Once selected, the option is locked in on that farm through the life of the farm bill, which ends in 2012. A worksheet to calculate your possible ACRE payment is available through the county office. Worksheets are also available online through various ag agencies nationwide.

## NEW PRODUCER PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

New forms will be required of all producers requesting payment for any program. The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation per producer for DCP/ACRE, SURE, LFP, and NAP has been reduced from 2.5 million to \$500,000 for producers with non-farm income. The limitation is \$750,000 for producers with only farm income. Producers with an AGI of more than 1 million dollars are ineligible for CRP and ECP. Also, the three-entity rule has been eliminated and payment limitations will be attributed directly to living individuals' social security numbers.

The Labette County FSA and Labette County Extension Service are hosting a Women In Agriculture Conference on April 30. All Labette County women involved in agriculture are invited to attend. This free event will be held in the annex at the Altamont First Baptist Church, 400 Wabash St., from 9:00am to 3:30pm. We have a day full of activities and speakers. Programs planned at this time include information about your future financial security, FSA programs, skin-care demonstration, business of organic farming, Labette County Farm History Center, rural leadership, ag education, and legislative action. Lunch will be served and several great door prizes will be given away.

**Women In  
Agriculture  
Conference  
April 30, 2009**

If you'd like to attend and reserve a spot for lunch, please RSVP **by Friday, April 24** to [kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov), Labette County FSA at 620-784-5431 or [ludwig@ksu.edu](mailto:ludwig@ksu.edu), Labette County Extension at 620-784-5337. We welcome you to attend all or part of the conference—please join us!

## REPORT PLANTED AND PREVENTED SMALL GRAINS BY MAY 31, 2009

Labette County farm producers need to report 2009 planted wheat and other small grain acreage to the Labette County Farm Service Agency by May 31, 2009. This report is required in order to maintain eligibility for benefits associated with the commodity subsidy and conservation programs, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Loan Deficiency Payments. Wheat or other small grains reported to the office after May 31 will be required to pay a late-filing service fee of about \$45 per farm. If you have not reported your wheat acreage yet, please call the office as soon as possible for an appointment to do so. The deadline to report planted feed grains, CRP and other grass is August 1, 2009.

Keep in mind that although the DCP deadline has been extended, the acreage reporting deadlines have not. Contact the Labette County FSA or your local office as soon as possible to make an appointment to report your planted or prevented planting small grain acreages. Farm operators or owners either one can file the acreage report or prevented planting Notice of Loss for the farm.

## FSA—YOUR LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

We provide a variety of loan types for every need, including farm operating, farm ownership, agricultural disaster, youth and loans for beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants. Let FSA Farm Loan Programs Staff help you with farm planning and counseling, supervised credit and assistance through the life of your loan, and sustained financial planning services.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Labette County FSA Office  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St, PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330

**Altamont, KS 67330-0437**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MANHATTAN, KS  
PERMIT #86  
**PERMIT #86**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 30—Women's Conference in Altamont**  
**May 25—Office closed for Memorial Day**  
**May 31—Final day to request 2008 feed grain commodity loans**  
**May 31—Final day to report 2009 planted small grain acreage**  
**July 4—Office closed for Independence Day**  
**August 1—Final day to report 2009 planted feed grain, CRP, grass acreage**  
**August 14—Final day to sign into 2009 DCP/ACRE Program**

## LOAN RATES

2008 and 2009 commodity loan rates and target prices for major crops are listed below. More rates can be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov) under Price Support.

### Loan Rates

Wheat HRW—\$3.05/bu  
Corn—\$2.09/bu  
Soybeans—\$4.98/bu  
Grain Sorghum—\$3.49/cwt  
Other Oilseeds—\$8.61/cwt  
Barley—\$1.75/bu  
Oats—\$1.35/bu

### Target Prices

Wheat HRW—\$3.92/bu  
Corn—\$2.63/bu  
Soybeans—\$5.80  
Grain Sorghum—\$2.57/cwt

## CONSERVATION PROGRAMS STILL IMPORTANT AND AVAILABLE

Numerous CRP contracts, encompassing over 2 million acres in Kansas, will expire between 2009 and 2013. Many contract holders may choose to return their acres back to crop production or grazing land. To maintain the conservation benefits achieved in the CRP, FSA encourages agricultural producers to consider keeping some or all of their environmentally sensitive acreage under contract.

While re-enrollment options under general signup are limited, landowners may enroll their environmentally sensitive acres in continuous CRP signup at any time. The cropping history period currently being used to determine land eligibility is still 1996-2001. Land must have been cropped four of those six years to be eligible for CRP. Producers are eligible for CRP only if they have owned the land at least 12 months and meet all other general payment eligibility requirements. Contact the county office if you're interested in signing up for one of these practices.

Continuous CRP practices available in Labette County are:

**CP8A**—Grass Waterways, Noneasement  
**CP9**—Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife  
**CP15B**—Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips on Terraces)  
**CP21**—Filter Strips  
**CP33**—Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds  
**CP38E**—**SAFE**—Permanent Wildlife Habitat

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STORING YOUR CROPS ON YOUR FARM?

Farm Storage Facility loans are always available. Qualifying producers may apply for loans for construction of new grain storage facilities. The April interest rate is 2.5%. Contact the FSA office for more information.

Handbook has not yet been amended, but the 2008 Farm Bill introduced changes that include a loan limit increase up to \$500,000, a mortgage length of up to 12 years rather than 7, and we will loan money for hay storage facilities. We will share with you procedure and policy for hay storage facility loans as soon as we receive the information.



## LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR INDEMNITY PAYMENT

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producer who have livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following means:

- Rendering truck receipts or certificates
- Veterinary records
- Dairy herd improvement records
- Third-party verification

The third party must certify in writing their name, address, telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired hand, or family member. Producers should also document the loss by taking photos of the animal, keep veterinary records, record disposal costs and secure third-party verification. At this time, FSA forms and procedure for taking loss applications are not yet available. Recording your livestock losses is important to maintain eligibility when program funding becomes available.

### 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."