

**Saline County  
USDA Service Center**

**Saline County FSA**  
1410 E Iron Ave, Ste 12  
Salina KS 67401-3285  
785-825-8269 (phone)  
785-825-1533 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)

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

**County Committee**  
Leslie Berndt  
Kenneth Ade  
Jane MacDonald

County Committee meets  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month at 9:00  
a.m.

**Farm Program Staff**  
David J Sweany, CED  
Pat Burt  
Jody Turner  
Jeanine White  
Tosha Schlichenmayer

**Farm Loan Program Staff**  
Bill Mahanay, FLM  
Rick Bush, FLO  
Kim Fine  
Linda Hughes

**WEBSITES**

FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Kansas FSA -  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)  
USDA - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Obtain a Level 2 e-  
Authentication Account -  
[www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)  
Kansas Extension Education  
[www.agmanger.info](http://www.agmanger.info)

**Conservation Reserve Program  
(CRP)**

Producers need to monitor their CRP contracts for unwanted and unplanned invasive plants. This would include noxious weeds and unplanned tree growth. While your ground is in CRP it is considered maintenance when you clear or kill tree growth in you CRP grass. After CRP expires and if you have tree growth in low lying areas or water flow areas – you could be restricted on tree removal or control if the ground is determined a wetland area. Make sure you take care of these problems promptly before it turns into a bigger one.

**Buy –in For 2008 SURE  
Program Extended**

Producers without coverage on insurable crops and non-insurable crops can purchase a “Buy-In” for 2008 crops until **May 18, 2009**. The “Buy-In” does not provide crop coverage but can provide for a possible SURE program benefit. For 2008, Saline County is a contiguous county to a “Secretarial Declared Disaster County” – Ellsworth Co. This means that producers with greater than a 10% loss in “revenue”, “production” or both could qualify for a SURE benefit. The deadline to cover your crops is fast approaching. Fee’s for the “Buy-In” are \$100 per cover crop per administrative county, but not more than \$300 per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties, less any previously paid fees. There is a linkage requirement if you did not have crop insurance or NAP insurance for covered crops in 2009 that will require you to purchase the applicable insurance coverage the next available year (2010). For more information contact your county office or visit [www.agmanger.info](http://www.agmanger.info) click on Crops and then Risk Management.

**Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)-** ACRE is a new program starting this year. It protects against crop revenue shortfall resulting from price and/or production declines at state and farm level. You may choose this **option farm by farm** and once elected is irrevocable for the remaining years of the current farm program (2012).

**ACRE Program Sign-up  
runs April 27 – Aug 14**

This program is now open for sign-up.

All owners and operators on the farm must agree to participate in this program.

It is **required** that all planted and prevented planted acres are reported annually and that **production** for crops grown is turned into the county office by the corresponding

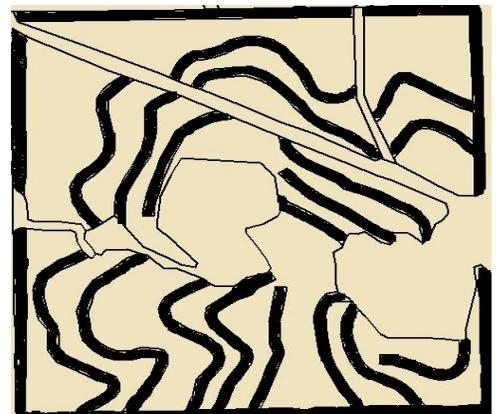
Acres Reporting Deadline. (June 1 for small grains – August 1 for feed grains) Failure to follow the above rules can result in a violation and corresponding fees, plus repayment of any monies earned in the program. Additional information at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp)

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The program covers crop and REVENUE losses due to natural disasters. It is replacing what many of you have known as a Disaster program. **Producers must** purchase **at least CAT** level coverage on all insurable crops in all counties that you plant or intend to plant. **Producers must** also purchase **NAP** coverage for all uninsurable crops of economic significance in all counties that you plant or intend to plant. (except grazing – refer to LFP program) Nap fees are \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county. A **Total Crop Acreage report** will be required – all crop and non-cropland for all counties the producer has interest. While this reporting requirement may take more time to complete, it also means that if you have ground in a county or contiguous county that receives a Secretarial Disaster Declaration – then all of your interests fall in the “loss greater than 10% rule”. So it could result in program benefits paid on the other county ground that normally would have to meet the 50% loss requirement.

**What to Do with Expiring CRP?**

Current procedure does not provide for any “General” CRP sign ups for whole CRP fields. However, you can re-enroll portions of your expiring CRP into continuous CRP practices before June 1 of the following year of expiration. So if it fits your future plans you could design your expiring CRP to look like the picture below and earn CRP payments on the field border and grass strip areas. There are a few other options depending on what you plan on doing with your expiring CRP that you will need to visit with the FSA or NRCS staff to find out more.



## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

### EARLY LAND PREPARATION FOR EXPIRING CRP CONTRACTS

Another option available to CRP producers with expiring CRP contracts is the Early Land Preparation. This can be requested during the final year of the contract. You must complete an application (CRP-1G) requesting permission to perform this option. You will also need to meet with NRCS to ensure your Conservation Plan is current. In this part of the State, after approval, you could begin preparing the land beginning July 1. Those that are approved for this option will have their final CRP payment held until a field inspection can be performed verifying the fall crop was planted. Failure to plant the fall crop will result in a CRP violation and payments, plus interest and liquidated damages will be owed to the FSA.

### Annual Foreign Investors Disclosure Act

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the US are required to report their holdings and transactions to the US Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

### Real Estate (Farm Ownership) Loans:

FSA is currently offering **fixed interest rate loans as low as 1.5% for 20 years** for beginning or socially disadvantaged (minority) farmers. A beginning farmer must have 3 to 10 years farming experience and own fewer acres than 30% of median for the county. Non-beginning farmers may qualify for **fixed interest rate loans as low as 4.25% for up to 40 years**.

### Operating (Farm Operating) Loans:

FSA is currently offering **2.375% fixed interest rate loans for up to 7 years** to finance machinery, equipment, livestock, or modest real estate improvements. Funds may also be used to finance production expenses with repayment terms corresponding to the type of security offered.

### FSA Youth Loans:

Youth loans to youth 10-20 years of age to establish income producing projects in conjunction with 4-H, FFA or a similar program. In addition to the profit motives, the youth loan program is designed to help individuals learn to develop a written business plan, maintain business records, prepare financial statements, prepare income/expense projections and analyze the performance of their business.

### FSA Guaranteed Loans:

Guaranteed farm ownership (real estate) and operating loans administered by FSA are available through commercial lenders. We have an **"interest assistance"** program that allows FSA to pay 4% of the interest expense on guaranteed operating loans on behalf of eligible farmers.

Dates to Remember	
May 18	SURE "Buy-In" Deadline
June 1	Small grain reporting deadline
June 15- Aug 3	County Committee Nomination Period
August 1	Feed grain, CRP, and other grass reporting deadline Final date to request Farm Reconstitution for 2009
August 14	DCP and ACRE deadline
August 15	Final date to report NAP production for 2008 crop year
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
June 1	Eligibility for expired CRP to enroll in Continuous Conservation Reserve Program without meeting required needs qualifications

### **Special Accommodations**

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.

### **General Information**

As of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 we are no longer issuing payments from the County Office. All direct deposits will be issued from Kansas City. Checks will be issued from NFC and can take 7 – 10 days. Make sure your Direct Deposit information is current if you have changed banks or accounts recently.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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