



Reno County Farm Service Agency

January 2011

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

Staff

FP
Gwen Brown
Jeannea Kaufman
Bobbie Koontz
Shirley Nelson
Katy Sotomayor
Clara Yoder
Terri Gomes

FLP
Ray Bartholomew
Sheri Grinstead
Katie Johnson

County Committee

Myron Miller
MaryAnn Strohl
Ed Thayer

Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of each month.

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COC Election Results

The Reno County Committee Election ballots were counted on December 8, 2010. MaryAnn Strohl was re-elected receiving 97 votes. Chad Basinger, Marion Schrag, and Rex Blew were all write in candidates receiving one vote each. The three way tie for 1st and 2nd alternate member was settled by lot. Marion Schrag will be the 1st alternate and Rex Blew will be the 2nd alternate.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method— the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method— may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method— the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.

Foreign Landowner Requirement

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

Conservation Loan Program

Farm Service Agency has a new Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farmers access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques, or technologies. The interest rate for this program will be the real estate interest rate which is 4.5% for January 2011.

Direct CLs can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. There is not a "test for credit" for this CL program and therefore farmers of all financial strengths are eligible for this program. There is a streamlined application process for applicants with a strong financial position that meet certain financial requirements. If interested please contact Ray Bartholomew or Sheri Grinstead at 620-669-8161.

2011 DCP Signup

Sign-up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program is underway. The deadline to sign-up for DCP is **JUNE 1, 2011**. All contracts must be returned to the FSA office with correct signatures on or before June 1, 2011 in order to receive payment. Contracts not received timely will be considered withdrawn and will not be approved for payment.

It will also be important for producers to timely report changes and file a revised CCC-509. These changes include but are not limited: a change in contract shares, a change in ownership or operator. Failure to report these changes may result in the loss of benefits for all producers on the farm for the crop year.

Farms with 10 acres of base or less, generally, will not be eligible to receive a DCP payment. However, the prohibition does not apply to farms that are owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer. Payments for 2011 will be calculated 83.3% of the covered commodity's base acreage. An advance payment of 22% may be requested at the time of sign-up. The Reno County office has mailed 2011 contracts to the operator's. Please carefully review the contracts to ensure all the information is accurate and correct. If a change is needed, please contact our office. Producers also have the option to select ACRE. Producers may cancel the DCP contract prior to June 1 and enter into the ACRE program.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2011, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2009 and 2010 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

SIGNUP FOR 2009-CROP LOSSES (SURE)

Signup for 2009-crop and revenue losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) will begin Jan.10, 2011. To be eligible you are required to have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Producers in counties without this disaster designation may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster; obtained crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance was not available, to have participated in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. This is not required for crops not of economic significance (5% or less of your farm revenue) or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP (\$250 per crop) exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Counties eligible for 2009 SURE: Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Cowley, Hamilton, Haskell, Meade, Montgomery, Rice, Sherman, Stevens, and Sumner. Contiguous counties are Allen, Anderson, Barber, Barton, Butler, Clark, Comanche, Crawford, Elk, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Harper, Jewell, Kearny, Kingman, Labette, Linn, Logan, McPherson, Morton, Neosho, Phillips, Rawlins, Reno, Sedgwick, Seward, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Thomas, Wallace, Wichita and Wilson. In a future year, 2011 will be considered for SURE and to qualify you'll need all 2011 crops insured and have NAP on non-insurable crops. Sales for NAP on 2011 feed crops ends March 15.

Acreage Reports

The Reno County Farm Service Agency is currently taking appointments for wheat and small grain (including oats, barley, rye, tritacale) acreage reports. In addition to wheat and small grain, producers will also need to report all acreage that they have an interest in, this includes hay and grazing lands for SURE purposes. It is important to ensure the crop acreage is reported correctly. Acreage reports are required to maintain eligibility for certain FSA programs such as DCP, loans, LDP's and SURE. Producers are encouraged to schedule an appointment early!

Dates to Remember	
01/10/2011	2009 SURE Sign up begins
01/17/2011	MLK Jr. Day Office Closed
02/21/2011	President's Day Office Close
03/15/2011	NAP Deadline for feed grains
05/31/2011	Small Grain Acreage Reporting Deadline
06/01/2011	DCP and ACRE Enrollment Deadline