



Trego County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

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Hours

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

Office Staff

Jessica Wesley,
County Executive Director

Randal Thiel
Farm Loan Manager

Josh Hagenmaier,
Farm Loan Officer

LaDonna Mattke,
Program Technician

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Marian Fabrizius,
Program Technician

County Committee

Judy Fabrizius
Peter Parke
Dale Armbruster

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COC Election Results

The Trego County Committee held its election for LAA 1 December 8, 2010. The candidates were Peter Parke and Terry Walt. Peter Parke was reelected and will now serve another three year term. The 2011 Trego County Committee consist of Judith Fabrizius, Chairperson; Peter Parke, Vice-Chairperson; and Dale Armbruster, member.



Power of Attorney

FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring.

Changing Bank Accounts

In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Crop Reporting

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acres, is essential. If no FSA-578 is filed, it could cause loss of program benefits in DCP, ACRE, SURE, Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs, and CRP. **Small Grains May 31st, All other crops August 1st**

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. The low interest rate changes monthly. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Loan limits are up to \$500,000.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. The 2009 SURE signup is January 10th 2011- July 29th 2011.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

DCP/ACRE Signup

DCP and ACRE programs for the 2011 crop year have begun. The DCP and ACRE programs require an annual contract signed by all participants. The last day to sign-up in both programs is **June 1, 2011**. Advance payments are available to those interested producers upon approval of the contract. Visit your Trego County FSA office or call (785) 743-2011 to make an appointment to complete your 2011 contracts.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland, equipment, livestock, finance agricultural input expenses and refinance some types of existing agricultural debt. FSA has a program to assist nearly every farm operator. Some common loan programs are rural youth loans, beginning farmer loans, direct or guaranteed farm ownership loans, direct or guaranteed operating loans, and a new conservation loan program released late last year.

FSA loans generally offer lower interest rates, lower collateral requirements and longer repayment terms than standard commercial credit. Most FSA interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan. Operating term loans to finance machinery or livestock can be made up to a maximum of \$300,000 for 7 years with a current fixed rate of 1.75% (January rate). Farm ownership loans for real estate purchases or development can be made for a maximum of \$300,000 for up to 40 years with a current fixed rate of 4.5% (January rate). Beginning farmer real estate interest rates can be as low as 1.5%. Interest rates vary slightly each month. Your interest rate would be the rate available on the day your loan is approved or the rate on the date of loan closing, whichever is lower. FSA has numerous loan combinations and loan limitations up to a combined level of \$1,919,000.00 for 2011.

Contact FSA-Farm Loan Programs to discuss your particular situation, review eligibility requirements, and see how we can assist you with your financial needs. Farm Loans is headquartered in Hill City and serves Trego, Graham, Sheridan, Ellis and Rooks Counties.

CRP- Lessor Prairie Chicken

In western Kansas, 30,000 acres have been allocated to a new SAFE initiative in certain targeted areas designated within the range of the lesser prairie chicken. **Signup begins December 1, 2010 and runs continuously until the acreage goal of 30,000 acres is met.** Expired CRP may be enrolled, but must have suitable wildlife cover. Eligible cropland must have been planted or considered planted in 4 of 6 years from 2002 through 2007.

The following payments are available:

- a one-time signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre
- a one-time practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation cost
- cost-share payments up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover
- annual rental payment.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 10, 2011	2009 SURE Sign-up Begins
March 15, 2011	NAP deadline for Forage Sorghum
May 31, 2011	Small Grains Certification Deadline
June 1, 2011	DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
August 1, 2011	Final Certification