

Montgomery/Chautauqua County Farm Service Agency News

Montgomery/Chautauqua County FSA

410 Peter Pan Rd, Suite A
Independence, KS 67301
Phone (620)331-4860
FAX (620)331-7951
lisa.hall@ks.usda.gov

Office Hours

8:00 AM—4:30 PM
Monday—Friday
Closed Legal Holidays

Farm Programs Staff

Lisa M. Hall, CED
Roxie Cummings, PT
Jill Dunn, PT
Karen Holloway, PT
Sara Smith, PT
Barry Beurskens, Fieldman

Farm Loan Staff

James Dark, FLM
Michelle Cerne, FLO
Jackie Adams, FLPT
Helen McDaniel, FLPT

County FSA Committee

Robert Casey, Chairperson
Chuck Springer, Vice-Chair
Melvin Gordon, Member
Joe Reed, Member
Jerry Barnett, Member
Bonnie Oliver, Advisor

Committee meets 1st
Wednesday of each month at
USDA Service Center meeting
room.

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

May 14 – DCP/ACRE
informational meeting at
1:30 in the USDA Service
Center meeting room

May 31 – Final loan
availability date for 2008
corn, grain sorghum,
soybeans, sunflowers

June 1 – Final date to report
2009 wheat, barley and
oats

July 15 – Primary nesting
season for wildlife ends.
Maintenance and
management practices on
CRP may resume.

August 1 – Final date to
report 2009 feed grains.

August 1 – Final date to
provide production to
establish yields for ACRE
program.

August 14 – Signup ends
for 2009 DCP and ACRE.
All signatures/supporting
documentation due.

DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Informational Meeting To Be Held May 14th

USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to August 14, 2009 for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

The DCP program remains mostly unchanged from the previous farm bill. However, ACRE is an optional component of the DCP program developed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. Sign-up for ACRE began April 27.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forego counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The ACRE election is by farm number, and may be selected in any farm year. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

Automated worksheets to calculate potential ACRE payments are available online from many sources including state universities, farm publications and farm organizations. A manual worksheet is also available through the county office.

In an effort to assist producers in the ACRE decision making process, an informational meeting has been scheduled for May 14th at 1:30 pm at the USDA Service Center meeting room in Independence. Special guest, Troy Dumler, Extension Agricultural Economist with Kansas State University, will present information to help producers better understand the DCP and ACRE programs. He will demonstrate the use of an ACRE calculator using different DCP and ACRE scenarios. He will also discuss provisions of the new permanent disaster program, Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE). Producers are encouraged to attend and learn more about the new programs.

Producers with disabilities who require special accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Lisa Hall at (620)331-4860 or e-mail lisa.hall@ks.usda.gov by May 11.



2009 FSA County Committee Election

Nomination Period Begins June 15

The nomination period for the upcoming 2009 county committee election begins June 15 and ends August 3, 2009. The election will be held this year in LAA-2, which includes Louisburg, Sycamore, Rutland and Independence townships in Montgomery County and in LAA-5, which includes Lafayette, Salt Creek, Sedan, Washington, Belleville and Little Caney townships in Chautauqua County.

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must

participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

All producers are encouraged to participate in the county election process by nominating candidates by the August 3 deadline.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 6 with ballots due back to the local county office by December 7. Newly elected members take office January 1, 2010.

FSA Farm Loans Lender of 1st Opportunity

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loan to farm operators. These may be made to beginning farmers or established farm/ranch operations. These loans may be used to buy farmland, machinery, and livestock or to refinance agricultural production. Special funding is set aside for females and members of certain minority groups.

FSA offers several types of loan programs. Under the Guaranteed Loan Program, FSA guarantees loans made by conventional agricultural lenders. FSA additionally offers Direct Loans. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral, and be unable to obtain credit from conventional lending institutions. Loans may be considered for up to 100% of security value. As of May 2009, the direct Operating loan interest rate is 2.375% and the direct Farm Ownership loan rates of 4.25%. For more information, contact the Farm Loan Program staff in Independence @ 620-331-4860.

Reporting 2009 Crops

It goes by different names – crop report, acreage report, crop certification – but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by June 1 for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers and CRP must be filed by August 1. In addition, prevented planted acreage should be reported within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop and failed acreage should be reported prior to disposition. NAP crops should be reported 15 days prior to the beginning or harvest.

When reporting acreages, producers will need to provide planting dates. If the acreage reporting deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit with a minimum charge of \$46 per farm. Visit the office prior to these deadlines to file acreage reports timely.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur but no later than September 30. Proof of ownership is required to record changes and can include a copy of the deed, land contract or a real estate tax assessment or bill. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines. It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect changes from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

Request for Soybean Referendum

USDA is offering soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order. The Request for Referendum will be conducted at local FSA offices beginning May 4, 2009 through May 29, 2009. USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's soybean producers support a referendum. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008. For more information contact your local FSA office.

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