

Neosho County FSA
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Office Hours
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
 Closed Legal Holidays

Office Staff
 Donna Sifers, CED
 Teresa Cox, PT
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 Renae Lucas, PT
 Charlotte LaRue, PT

Farm Loan Staff
 620-724-6227
 Robert White, FLM
 Jason Love, FLO
 Debora Bolin, FLPT
 Barbara Brown, FLPT

County Committee
 Teresa Bogner, Chair
 Donald Taylor, Vice
 Chair
 Donald Vitt, Member

**COC meets second
 Tuesday each month
 at 9:00 AM**

FSA Web Sites
Kansas
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
National
www.fsa.usda.gov
USDA
www.usda.gov

Kansas AgrAbility Project

Do you need special accommodations on your farm or ranch because of an injury, illness or disability? Contact the Kansas AgrAbility Project for an assessment of your worksite. Their goal is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, farm families, and farm workers who have disabilities, so they can continue to work and thrive in their agricultural career. Contact them at 1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648).

FSAKids



FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in the elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on the county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit your local FSA or USDA Service Center.

Election Calendar

- June 15 – Nomination period begins
- August 3 – Final date to file a nomination
- November 6 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- December 7 – Last day to return voted ballots
- January 1 – New committee members take office

Dairy Prices Trigger MILC Payments

Due to low milk prices, payments have been issued this month to producers through FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract, or MILC, program. The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the MILC program, most notably the addition of a dairy feed ration cost adjustment.

FSA makes MILC payments when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted for feed costs. Milk producers are reminded to submit production records each month.

Continuous CRP Available

Numerous Conservation Reserve Program (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.

Continuous CRP practices include riparian forest buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, and wildlife habitat buffers, which provide important environmental benefits, promoting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

FSA accepts continuous CRP signup contracts automatically, provided landowners meet eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP signup contracts are 10-15 years long and pay an enhanced rental rate.

FSA Farm Loans

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

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 elsewhere. Loans may be considered for up to 100% of security value. As of April 2009, the direct Operating loan interest rate is 2.25% and the direct Farm Ownership interest rates are 1.5% or 4.125%. For more information, contact the Farm Loan Program staff in Girard, Kansas at 620-724-6227, Ext. 229.

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The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments.

ACRE benefits are earned when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also agree to a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program from the program year elected by the producer through the 2012 crop year. For more details, contact your local FSA office.

FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans, and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loans in excess of \$50,000 required a real estate lien. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact your local FSA office.



NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

DCP Sign-up Underway

Sign-up continues for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. The sign-up deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009. **All required signatures and leases must be on file by that date to be considered enrolled in the 2009 DCP.**

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-Cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Listed below are the different methods used in reconstitutions:

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.

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;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1. See your local FSA office for details.

**DATES,
 DEADLINES,
 &
 REMINDERS**

May 31	2008 corn, milo, soybean or sunflower Loan Availability deadline
May 31	Small grains crop reporting deadline
July 15	Primary nesting season for wildlife ends. Maintenance/management practices may be resumed.
August 1	Feed grains crop reporting deadline
August 14	2009 DCP signup ends. All supporting documentation must be returned
Ongoing	CRP acreage shall be identified. Permanent markers should be placed at field ends and on the contour.