



Jewell County FSA News

October 2008

Jewell County FSA Office

105 W. South St.
Mankato, Kansas 66956
(785)378-3731
(785)378-3568 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Executive Director

James W. Peroutek

County Office Committee (COC)

Marion Atwood, Chairman
Beverly Porter, Vice-Chairman
Roger Kintigh, Member

COC Mtg. 2nd Thursday of the Month

Staff

Kristi Badger Pam Rice
Patricia Grout Janet Tyler
Temporary – Carol Harris

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
FSA Forms-www.sc.egov.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

COMMODITY LOANS/LDPS

Producers are reminded of the following 9 month loan provisions:

2008 Loan Rates are:

Wheat \$3.02, Corn \$1.98,
Sorghum \$3.25/cwt.,
Soybeans \$4.83, Oats \$1.32,
Sunflowers \$9.19/cwt.,
Barley \$1.80

October Interest 3.0 percent

Maximum moisture for farm storage: Wheat 13.5, Corn 15.5, Sorghum 14.0, Soybeans 14.0, Sunflowers 10.0 percent.

Fees: \$45 per request on the first bin or warehouse receipt plus \$3 for each additional bin or receipt – OR ½ of one percent times the gross amount.

The Kansas State Committee have set policy; grain storage in heavy poly storage bags is not eligible for CCC commodity loan.

Farm stored Loan and LDP quantities may be based on actual or certified data. (The certified data must be verified as actual production at a later date). A producer paid Measurement Service is also available to determine the quantity.

Warehouse-stored loans require warehouse receipts and warehouse LDP's require evidence such as sales receipts or load summary sheets.

Beginning with the 2008 crop year, producers must provide for all in-handling charges before a warehouse-stored loan will be disbursed or before a farm stored loan can be forfeited at a warehouse.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE 2009 FARM PROGRAM

Informational Meetings are scheduled for the 2009 Farm Program. As of this writing there are several components of the new Farm Program which remain undetermined. We are hopeful that by these meeting dates final provisions will be in place. The meetings will go on as scheduled; information will be presented based on the guidelines available at the time.

Tuesday, November 18; Burr Oak School Auditorium 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18; Mankato Community Center 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19; Jewell Community Center 1:00 p.m.

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

LAA-1, the western portion of the county will be involved with the FSA County Committee election this fall. Marion Atwood currently represents this area which consists of the townships of Highland, Walnut, White Mound, Burr Oak, Esbon, Odessa, Ionia, Erving, and Athens.

Barbara Rannebeck who lives in the Erving township has been nominated to be a candidate for County FSA Committee.

Election ballots will be mailed in November by an independent contractor. The ballot must be signed by the actual voting party; signature by Power of Attorney is not eligible. The ballot is to be returned to the local FSA office by December 1, 2008. The ballots will be counted during a County FSA Committee meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. December 4, 2008.

Each County Committee member is elected by eligible farmers and ranchers in their area. The county committee is responsible for administering FSA programs at the county level.

2009 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The final date to certify wheat, barley, and oats will be **June 1, 2009**.

During 2009, acreage certification will be conducted somewhat different. FSA must have the crops reported, loaded, and the producers signature by the final deadline. We ask producer's to come in early to report your acreage. If it appears producers are not coming in timely to complete acreage certification FSA will need to schedule appointments. Once your wheat is planted, come in to certify, and this should work smoothly.

FSA should be able to actually load 2009 certification on our computer system in late November, once the 2009 software arrives.

Producers wanting to sign up for the SURE Program (new Disaster Provision) will need to be covered by; at least the catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for eligible crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non insurable crops they produce. **If signing up for the Farm Program including the SURE program, to remain eligible for benefits, you must also certify the crop acreage of all crops in which you have an interest** (grain crops, hay crops, grass for grazing or hay, fruit or vegetable, etc.)

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT (LDP)

Should commodity prices drop further producers need to be prepared to utilize LDP's. Form CCC-633EZ can be used to secure an LDP on production;

1 (delivered to a buyer and beneficial interest (BI) has been retained,
2 (delivered to a buyer and Beneficial Interest (BI) has been lost, or,
3 (stored on the farm or other location and BI has been maintained.

The CCC-633EZ form consists of:

Page 1, the LDP agreement and the "terms and conditions" of the LDP program.
Page 2, which is the LDP request form.

In the past our office has had each producer sign page 1 early in the year during another program signup. **This has not been done for 2008. You may file a "CCC-633 page 1" at any time, but it must be filed before you lose "Beneficial Interest" in the commodity.** Producers would want to file their CCC-633EZ page 1, prior to harvesting their 2008 crop if you feel the crop would be eligible for LDP on the date of harvest.

Most sheep producers have filed the CCC-633 page 1. Remember to bring in production evidence when available. Those that have not filed page 1 will need to file CCC-633 prior to losing "Beneficial Interest" in the commodity.

Farm Program Items –

The New Farm Bill was approved and FSA implemented the 2008 Farm Program quickly. We appreciate producers working with us during the short sign up period. 2009 DCP signup was to begin effective October 1, 2008 but at this time very few of the new rules have been finalized. A change to the 2009 DCP will be a new crop revenue-based payment option called ACRE. The ACRE provisions, Payment Limitation and Eligibility, a 3-year average AGI (Adjusted Gross Income), and SURE provisions are not finalized. Signup for 2009 may not begin for some time.

Reminders

November 18-19 Farm Program Informational Meetings

November – plan to receive software to begin 2009 acreage certification.

November or December – we plan to initiate 2009 Farm Program

December 1, 2008 – important final date to purchase NAP. Producers will need to decide whether to purchase NAP coverage for ALL noninsured crops for which they will have an interest during 2009. This NAP coverage is needed if you plan to be eligible for 2009 SURE (Supplemental Disaster Program benefits). This includes all noninsured crops (feed, grass, double cropped commodities and other commodities for which FCIC crop insurance is not available.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, and 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Available in Six Jewell County Townships

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has been approved allowing the potential for a 75% cost share on damaged land due to a tornado, high winds, and excessive rain on May 29, 2008. Agricultural producers with land in the Jewell County townships of Browns Creek, Buffalo, Calvin, Prairie, Vicksburg, and Grant are eligible to apply for the funding. Eligible practices are: EC1 – Removing Debris From Farmland, EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures, EC3 – Restoring Permanent Fences, EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations, and EC8 – Field windbreaks and Farmstead Shelterbelts Emergency Measures.

Producer applications must be filed in the Jewell County FSA Office prior to beginning the practice. However, please be advised the National Office could not approve ECP funding at this time. No funds are currently available for allocation. The ECP approval and request for funding in Jewell County has been placed on a list for allocation, should funds become available in the future.

Producers need to sign up for ECP prior to beginning the practice. Your application will remain on file. Should funding become available in the future the County Committee will prioritize requests to distribute the funding available. It may be 3-6 months before the National Office determines whether funding is available for this ECP project.

Application Period - The Jewell County FSA will be accepting applications for ECP from **November 1, through November 30, 2008**. Some practices this program may enable producers to receive cost share for are:
Labor, and specialized equipment for debris removal on farmland or nonfarm land affecting farmable cropland.
Earthmoving, Grading, Shaping to reestablish farmland to its original structure.
Waterway Shaping/Seeding/Restoration
Restoring terrace system and Restoring Diversions/Ditches
Restoring windmills by reestablishment or solar pump including tanks and livestock pipelines
Restoring fences, this would be a cost share to reestablish a new fence. The new fence value for cost share would be depreciated according to the age of the destroyed fence.
Windbreaks - we would cost share for trees and planting. This would include cost share for removing the debris, stumps, etc. from the destroyed stand.

2009 DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The new disaster program is tied to crop insurance, making levels of FCIC coverage more important than before. The programs name is Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments or (SURE). SURE is based off the revenue guarantee that you buy through insurance. The higher your level of insurance coverage, the better revenue guarantee that you also get from SURE. The calculation will differ for each producer as the level of insurance coverage and the farm average production history yields will apply. Each producer will need to determine whether SURE would be an advantage to them. A good site to visit to enter their farms information is www.agriculture.com/SUREspreadsheets and try the online example.

A SURE loss benefit for 2009 payment would not be paid until the fall of 2010. The reasoning is that your revenue level to collect from SURE is based on two things: your own farm yields for all crops and national USDA average crop price for the marketing year that follows harvest. Note, your loss is based on the total farm revenue for the year (all crops included). This is not like the programs of the past in which producers were paid by loss per crop and unit.

To qualify for SURE the county must have a Secretarial Disaster Designation (or be contiguous to a county that does) or an individual producer would qualify if they have more than a 50% production loss from their total farm crop revenue for the year. A farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

Programs under the Supplemental Disaster Assistance would be: Emergency Assistance for Livestock (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

The qualifying requirement for being eligible for the Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program is **that producers must purchase crop insurance and NAP coverage on ALL commodities by the applicable crop deadlines** for the year. Should a crop be planted in a year crop insurance or NAP was not obtained for that crop a producer would not be eligible for that year's SURE benefits.

The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2009 is December 1, 2008 for small grains for grazing (hay). This includes wheat, barley, triticale, alfalfa, oats hay, and grass for grazing or forage. March 15 is the deadline to purchase coverage for sorghum forage for grazing or forage. For 2009 the NAP fee has increased to \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per administrative county, or \$1875 total per producer, for all counties.

The question to ask yourself: Is the likelihood of having over a 50% total crop revenue loss as a qualifier for SURE worth the cost of NAP and the time involved with providing production evidence for APH each year? If you plan to purchase 2009 NAP please come in before the end of November.

