



Kingman County Commission

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Note: This release is being distributed on behalf of the Kingman County Extension Office.

Kingman County Extension hosts Farm Bill workshop

Additional workshops will be offered on March 5 and 6

By Michael Owen

Extension Agent (ANR/4-H), K-State Research & Extension

The Kingman County Extension Office hosted a farm bill training on Thursday, Jan. 8 to discuss the new provisions and best possible ways to navigate the long awaited piece of legislation. There were more than 130 people in attendance despite the extremely cold weather. It was held at the Kingman County Activity Center in the arena. Special thanks goes to Citizens Bank of Kansas for sponsoring the meal for everyone. Rita Kinsler and Darla Kerschen catered a delicious meal of homemade chili and cinnamon rolls.

Special guest speakers included Gary Howard, Kingman County FSA Director; John Wimer, Kingman County Noxious Weed Department Director; Ben Allen, Kingman County NRCS Soil Conservationist; and Michael Owen, Kingman County Extension Agent (Agriculture & Natural Resources).

The most important information producers need to understand about the new farm bill is annual direct payments will cease. Instead, producers have the option to enroll their acreage in the Agricultural Risk Coverage-County Level (ARC-CO), Agricultural Risk Coverage-Individual Level (ARC-IC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

These programs are not a replacement or alternative to crop insurance. Producers are still encouraged to buy up crop insurance in addition to enrolling in the farm bill programs. The ARC programs are aimed at shallow stop-loss protection, while the PLC program is geared toward catastrophic protection. There is also a Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) available, but only for acres enrolled in the PLC program.

This year, producers also have the option to reallocate their base acreage from different commodities planted between the 2009-2012 years. The deadline to reallocate base acreage is Feb. 27, 2015. The deadline for program election is March 31, 2015. If a producer chooses to do nothing, they will be automatically enrolled into the PLC program and forego a possible payment for the 2014 crop year. Also, payments are not guaranteed each year unless a drop in the market price or county yield is incurred at a particular level.

For those who missed out on the educational opportunity, the Extension office will be hosting two more educational meetings. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, March 5 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the second will take place on Friday, March 6 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the North Room of the Kingman County Activity Center.

For more information or questions about the 2014 Farm Bill, please contact the Extension office at (620) 532-5131 or email Michael at mowen@ksu.edu. You may also contact the Kingman County FSA office at (620) 532-3116, ext. 2.

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