

# Farm agency announces important program updates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the 2008 Farm Bill for many Commodity Credit Corporation commodity, disaster, and conservation programs through 2013.

The extended programs include, among others: The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment program, the Average Crop Revenue Election program, and the Milk Income Loss Contract program.

Farm Service Agency is preparing the following actions:

- Farm Service Agency will begin sign-ups for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment and Average Crop Revenue Election Program for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19.

- The Direct and Counter-Cyclical payment program signup will end on Aug. 2; the Average Crop Revenue Election program sign-up will end on June 3. The 2013 Direct and County-Cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election programs provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either programs for the 2013 crop year. They are not required to stay with their choice made in 2012.

All dairy producers' Milk Income Loss Contract program

contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in milk income program. Specific details regarding certain modifications to the milk income program will be release soon.

Farm Service Agency will

provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available. For more information about the programs and loans administered by the agency, visit any county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Money needed to establish vet retreat

By Keary Carman

It's no mystery to anyone that large amounts of money will be required to establish a retreat for veterans suffering trauma. Expenses will require purchasing the Assembly of God Church, remodeling it, and creating the foundation for its operations moving into the future.

The immensity of this challenge often weighs on me, but one big idea has pushed me forward from the beginning of my quest – that my petty anxieties and insecurities pale in comparison to the sorrow and anguish of the murdered, abused, tortured and frayed.

When my son was born four years ago, the idea of him growing up in a society lacking in

compassion was so incongruous with my love for him, that I selfishly abandoned an old way of life for this new pursuit. No matter how insurmountable the odds, or illogical the idea, I hold his beautiful face next to the blood and pain I've encountered, and I see clearly that I am justified in my hope that the world he grows up in will be changed from the one we have now.

Your support of this idea could bring peace to combat veterans and other survivors of trauma, not just here, but across the nation. We're not only hoping to receive monetary support, but donations of recyclable metals. Watch for an ad next week with more information.



KATIE SCHMID works on a clay vessel which will be entered in the Northwest Kansas League art show held in April.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

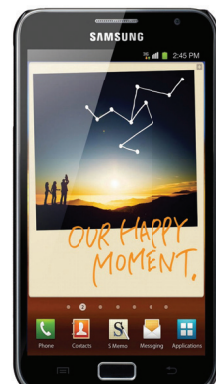
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