



## June 2008

### Dickinson County FSA Office

328 NE. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Abilene, KS. 67410-1928  
Office - (785)263-1351  
FAX - (785)263-1174.

### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Jared Hoover, Chairman  
Mark Bethe, Vice-Chairman  
Donneta Felbush, Member

Mtg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month

### Staff

Sara Morey - CED

### Program Technicians

Ellen Alvarez      Jamie Millard  
Angel Haney      Michele Snowball  
Sandy Johnson      Becky Walker

### Temporary PT

Barb Barrett

### Internet web sites

USDA-[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
FSA Forms-[www.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov)  
NRCS-[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

### 2008 Farm Bill

At the time this newsletter was written there was not an agreement on Farm Bill Provisions for 2008. Information will be provided to you once details regarding the future farm bill are received.

Some of the information in this newsletter may change or be obsolete with a new farm program but old policy deadlines are approaching which you need to be aware of, if the past farm program provisions are extended.

### FAILED CROP ACREAGE

Producers are to report to our office **failed crop acreage** if your intention is to maintain that years failed crop acreage credit in our office for a specific crop. The failed crop request must be presented to FSA prior to destroying evidence of the failed crop. If there is an FCIC appraisal on the crop FSA may use the appraisal as evidence of a crop, please bring the appraisal when reporting the failed crop to FSA.

If no FCIC crop verification is available, FSA must conduct a spot-check to verify the failed crop. If FSA is able to complete the spot check timely the entire acreage will be viewed, otherwise FSA will provide instructions on leaving representative strips until a spot check can be completed.

### TELEVISION CHANGE

On February 19, 2009 all TV broadcasts will go from analog to digital. The governmental Commerce Department will give those who apply two coupons worth \$40 each to buy an analog –to-digital converter box, which can be attached to analog TV's. Provided are ways to get a coupon.

Online – [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov)  
By Phone – 1-888-388-2009  
By Mail – P.O. Box 2000 Portland, OR 97208  
By Fax – 1-877-388-4632  
Or stop by our office.

## Dickinson County FSA News

### FSA County Committee Election

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S Department of Agriculture.

The 2008 election for Dickinson County Committee will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the west portion of the county. This includes the townships of Flora, Cheever, Sherman, Fragrant Hill, Willowdale, Buckeye, Hayes, and Noble. The 2008 election process includes the following dates:

June 15, 2008      Nomination period begins  
June 19, 2008      COC election informational meeting @ 9:00 AM  
August 1, 2008      Final day to file nomination at FSA  
November 3, 2008      Ballots mailed to eligible voters  
December 1, 2008      Final day to return ballots to FSA  
January 1, 2009.      Elected members and alternates take office

### 2008 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The final date to certify wheat, barley, and oats is **June 2, 2008**. The crops stated above not certified by the **June** deadline will be assessed a late file fee and a spot check will be performed to verify the acreage. The final date to certify corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, and other feed crops is **August 1, 2008**; any double crop acres are to meet this reporting deadline also.

**NAP** coverage producers are to be aware that feed crops are required to have the acreage reported 15 days prior to the crop being harvested (alfalfa - May 1<sup>st</sup>).

The DCP program under the past farm bill required all cropland on the farm to be certified in order to be eligible for DCP benefits. We will wait to see how these regulations are applied to the future 2008 farm bill.

### CRP EARLY PREPARATION

Beginning July 1 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before CRP-1 expiration to prepare a seedbed for "fall" seeded crops. Producers would need to file a request for early destruction and follow an approved conservation plan. No payment reduction will be assessed for the early destruction. The fall seeded crop may be planted prior to October 1.

Producers will be in violation of CRP-1 if the approved participant fails to plant a fall seeded crop in a normal manner, and may result in a refund of CRP annual rental payment, plus interest, and liquidated damages. If mowing or haying is required to adequately prepare a seedbed for fall crops, the acreage may be mowed or hayed July 1 but no commercial use may be made of the forage; a field visit is required to verify destruction of the forage. A producer could also hay as of July 15 under managed haying provisions, if eligible.

CRP participants are permitted to apply chemicals to prepare certain CRP acreage for "spring" seeded crops; otherwise early destruction of the CRP cover by any other means is not permitted prior to the end of the CRP contract period.

### CCRP ENROLLMENT ON EXPIRING CRP

The continuous CRP Program (CCRP) allows producers to enroll at any time, acreage into practices such as filter strip, windbreak, quail buffer, and Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project. New policy is now present for re-enrolling land under CCRP practices for "EXPIRING" general and continuous CRP practices.

In short the new policy will allow producers with expiring CRP to re-enroll all or a portion of the expiring acreage into a Continuous signup practice. The "needs and feasibility criteria" is preserved for the ground being re-enrolled if the ground is offered for enrollment before June 1 of the year following the year the CRP contract expires. Expired CRP acreage offered for re-enrollment past the June 1 final date to re-enroll would then be considered new land and would need to meet all CRP practice eligibility.

### DUAL PURPOSE SORGHUM VARIETIES

Certain forage sorghum varieties considered dual purpose are eligible as grain sorghum for acreage credit and LDP benefit based on yield of comparable sorghum in the area. When certifying the acreage of the crop you will need to provide proof of the variety planted. (Invoice, tag, etc.)

### CP38E KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRDS

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) is to improve populations of quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, and other grassland associated wildlife. The SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP. To be eligible for SAFE land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements and be cropland in four of six years 1996 thru 2001. Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. Signup for CP38E continues until the acreage goal of 30,100 is met.

**Rental rates** are based on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the three predominate soils. A one-time signing incentive of \$100 per acre for Contracts of 10 years or more is paid. A one time practice incentive payment is paid for installation costs and practice installation cost share. Producers "re-enrolling expiring CRP" into CP38E will not be eligible for the \$100 Signup Incentive (SIP) or practice installation cost share (PIP).

**Maximum Acreage** enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields greater than 25 acres, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

### Reminders/Announcement

#### **NAP production evidence**

\*\*Producers with losses are to notify FSA within 15 days of the loss.

\*\*Producers who do not have a loss are required to provide production evidence to report and verify 2008 production. The producer is to pay the cost of a field reporter to verify the production in the field. The production must not be fed before reporting to FSA. If production is fed and therefore not verifiable the production is not acceptable as eligible production evidence and will not count towards the APH (actual production history).

Producers are to provide bale counts and weights when reporting production of baled crops. We must have verifiable weights of the bales. **The time to verify production is at the completion of harvest.**

**Record Changes** – If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes to FSA as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest may lead to potential program ineligibility and damages.

**Birth** - Sara Morey Dickinson County CED had a little girl April 30<sup>th</sup>; mother and baby are doing well.

### CRP EXPIRING CONTRACTS

**CRP Acreage that is expiring** – Once the CRP acreage expires the area will be released from CRP Contract Provisions. One option would be to leave the area as grass. Another option would be to convert the acreage or a portion of the acreage to a cropped field. You would need to identify with FSA the boundary of the field to be cropped. Early in the planning stage, which could be while the acreage is under CRP Contract, you should contact NRCS regarding conversion of the acreage to a crop. **Anyone converting old CRP acreage to a crop will need to visit with NRCS to develop a Conservation Plan of Operation.** In most cases NRCS will need to visit the field to determine whether the conservation practices in place will maintain acceptable soil loss levels. Additional conservation work may need to be placed in the conservation plan. Should additional conservation practices be added to your conservation plan you may begin installing the practices prior to CRP Contract expiration. There will be a substantial amount of acreage expiring from CRP the next few years. It would be wise to plan ahead and work with NRCS prior to the time you would wish to convert the ground to cropland.

### CRP – MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING

The following applies with the *exception* noted due to revised provisions during 2006.

**Managed Grazing** – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 5 years, including years of emergency grazing release. Grazing is conducted from July 16 through November 15 not to exceed 120 consecutive days or as otherwise limited by a management plan or conditions.

**Managed Haying** – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 of every 10 years, including those years of emergency release. Haying is permitted on no more than 50 percent of each field or contiguous field once in five years. Haying is permitted from July 16 thru August 15. The hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from the final date to hay. The hay may not be stored on CRP acreage and the hay may be sold.

**Exception** – applies to existing CRP contracts providing that managed haying and/or grazing was approved on a CRP Contract's Conservation Plan **prior to September 26, 2006**. If haying and/or grazing was previously approved by this date the guidelines we have used in the past are grandfathered in. Below are guidelines for those in the exception status:

Managed haying or grazing is authorized 1 of every 3 years.

No haying or grazing during the nesting or brood season (April 15 – July 15)

### 2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop and Livestock Disaster Programs

**Crop Disaster** – the crop disaster program began last fall, the final date to signup for the program has not been established. A change to the program is that producers with crop insurance are now allowed to use losses in 2007 as the designated crop loss year for payment if they so chose. The loss year for benefit may be 2005, 2006, or 2007. Most producers have signed up for disaster benefit; if you have not signed up please do so in the near term.

**Livestock Loss programs** – the Livestock Compensation Program allows benefit for producers with excessive grazing losses during 2005, 2006, or 2007.

The Livestock Indemnity Program allows benefit for producers with livestock loss during a disaster event in 2005, 2006, or 2007.

The above programs have a final date of **July 18, 2008**. If you feel you qualify for benefit and have not signed into the program please do so in the near term.

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