



July 2008

Doniphan County News

Doniphan County USDA Service Center

Doniphan County FSA
510 E Locust
Troy, KS 66087
785-985-2221 (phone)
785-985-3731 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Jack Masters
Everett Euler
Ula May Drake

County Committee Meets
3rd Thursday of each
month at 8:30 AM

Staff
Curtis Kruse, CED
Mary Lou Blanton, PT
Jennifer Luedke, PT
Sarah Falk, PT
Autumn Simmons, Temp
Larry Diveley, FT

Loan Manager
Bruce Nutsch
(913) 833-5460

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REMINDERS

July 4- Office closed for Independence Day

September 1- Office closed for Labor Day

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS "FSA COUNTS ON YOU"

The election of responsible producers to the FSA County Committee is important to all farmers and ranchers. For those producers who are located in Local Administrative Area (LAA)-3, it is County Committee nomination time again. The townships included in LAA-3 are Burr Oak, Washington, and Marion.

Currently, this position is held by Everett Euler and he is eligible to be re-elected. Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee will be accepted June 15 through August 1, 2008. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.



DCP SIGNUP STARTS JUNE 25

Signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) started June 25 and ends September 30, 2008. For 2008- crop year, USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Most of the farm bill changes will become effective in the 2009 crop year. As in past years, DCP signup is available online for those of you with an eAuth User ID. If interested, please contact the county office. **Please make an appointment with our office today!**

SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR LCP & LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock losses or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

CROP DISASTER SIGN-UP CONTINUES

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered crop loss before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. Soon, FSA will begin signup for quality losses under CDP. For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>



CROP REPORTING

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for spring seeded crops and CRP is August 15. NAP acreages must be reported by August 15 or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing. **Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

Foreign owners of US agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.



CRP SAFE



Applications are now being accepted for USDA's latest CRP initiative for establishing wildlife habitat in cropped fields. State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) provides many of the same benefits of Quail Buffers, but offers more flexibility for eligible areas in a field (does not have to be only the edge of a field) and in size of the areas offered. Kansas received an acreage allocation for use across the state. Contact our office staff for program information. Enrollment is continuous, so it can be started at any time.

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as possible to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes in shares, changes of operator or tenant, changes to your bank account, etc.

CRP MAINTENANCE

Now is the time to take care of noxious weeds, tree or shrub encroachment and to ensure roads and other prohibited activities are not located on CRP acres. A few examples of CRP prohibited uses are asphalt/concrete plants, trash disposal areas, buildings or houses, livestock feed storage, permanent roads/trails, cosmetic mowing, mowing of strips for hunting, oil/gas wells, associated tanks and access roads, and parking or storage of machinery, junked autos, etc.

Remember that your **CRP contract PROHIBITS:** 1.) mowing hunting lanes; 2.) any mowing for cosmetic purposes; 3.) annual mowing for CRP weed control. You should always contact your local FSA office **before mowing any CRP** to ensure you will stay within the maintenance requirements for your contract. **No disturbance to CRP shall occur during the primary nesting season for Kansas from April 15- July 15.**

PUBLIC MEETINGS



- **Monday, July 14th; 7:30 PM at the Wathena Baptist Church-** Public Informational Meeting to discuss County Committee Nominations and New Farm Bill Programs.
- **Wednesday, July 16th; 7:30 PM at the Troy Community Center-** Public Informational Meeting to discuss New Farm Bill Programs.

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22nd, 2008. The act creates an agricultural disaster relief trust fund to meet financial obligations of 5 new disaster assistance programs. It also continues the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) from 2008 through 2012, and authorizes an Average Crop Revenue Election Program for 2009 through 2012.

One of the 5 new disaster assistance programs is the Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE). This program covers crop production losses and/or crop quality losses. Producers will have the option to buy their way in by paying a fee equal to CAT level coverage fee or NAP fee. (\$100/crop). **The deadline is August 20, 2008.**

Please stay tuned and come to the meetings to learn more about the new programs. Thank you for your patience as we are all learning the farm bill.

Dates to Remember

July 18	Final date to apply for livestock disaster assistance
August 15	Final date to report spring seeded crops, CRP and NAP
On-going	Youth Loans (10-20 years old)
On-going	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating Loans, including SDA and Beginning Farmer loans
On-going	Farm Storage Facility Loans
On-going	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program



WEBSITES



FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.00%

TV Converter Box Coupon Program

On February 19, 2009 all TV broadcasts will go from analog to digital. The federal government Commerce Department is offering US households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after February 17, 2009. More information can be found online at www.DTV2009.gov

How do I get a coupon? Apply online or by phone. You may also mail in or fax a Coupon Application. You may request one coupon now and one later, but no more than two coupons per household are allowed. Coupon supplies are limited. Coupons expire 90 days after they are mailed. Requests must be received by March 31, 2009. Contact information is listed below.

ONLINE
www.DTV2009.gov

BY FAX
 1-877-DTV-4ME2

BY PHONE
 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)
 Deaf or hard of hearing callers:
 1-877-530-2634 TTY – English
 1-866-495-1161 TTY – Spanish

BY MAIL
 PO BOX 2000
 Portland, OR 97208

CRP HAYING & GRAZING IN 2008

CRP participants can hay or graze certain CRP acreage from July 16 through November 10, 2008. Interested participants must request to modify their CRP contract and obtain a forage management plan. There is no payment reduction, but participants must pay a \$75 fee per CRP contract. Participants must leave at least 50 percent of eligible CRP acreage un-hayed for wildlife. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommended stocking rate on 100 percent of the eligible acres or at 100 percent of the stocking rate on 75 percent of the eligible acres. Contact our office as soon as possible if you are interested in haying or grazing your CRP acreage.

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