

LINN COUNTY FSA NEWS

February 2008

Linn County FSA Office

431 Spruce St P.O. Box G
Mound City, KS 66056-0606
Phone: (913) 795-2940
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Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



County Committee Members

Pam Wilson, Chairperson
Edward Self, Vice Chairperson
Clayton Carothers, Member

The Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

Office Staff

Brian Lueker, CED

Diana Otto, PT

Jacque Nation, PT

Melanie Sodergren, PT

Annie Wallace, TPT

2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster Program

Recent disaster legislation has extended Crop Disaster Program assistance to all crop losses which were covered by crop insurance or the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Previously, crop losses in 2007 were limited to eligible crops planted prior to February 28, 2007 (primarily wheat). So, if producers have already filed for CDP assistance and had qualifying crop losses on spring-planted crops in 2007 (such as corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers), they should check with FSA to see if additional benefits may be possible. In general, producers file CDP applications for qualifying crop losses in all years, but are paid only for crop losses in the single year (2005, 2006, or 2007) with the highest benefits. CDP benefits are based on the crop loss information downloaded from crop insurance and records at the FSA office regarding NAP losses.

Livestock Disaster Programs

No signup deadline has been established yet for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

--**LIP:** This program provides assistance for livestock deaths caused by an approved natural disaster. Applicants must provide proof of the livestock deaths and that the deaths were caused by conditions approved under existing disaster designations. Drought is not an eligible disaster event for LIP.

--**LCP:** Most livestock producers in Linn County qualify for this program. Under LCP, producers who own or cash-lease eligible livestock can obtain assistance for forage/feed losses and/or additional feed costs resulting from an approved natural disaster. Most LCP applications received to date reflect significant grass pasture losses due to severe drought conditions in 2005 or 2006. To file for LCP, producers should contact the FSA office that handles their farm records and have documentation of their livestock inventory on January 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006. Pasture locations, stocking rates, supplemental feeding information, etc, must also be recorded. An eligible livestock value will be compared with a pasture forage/feed loss value to determine the LCP payments.



Farm Bill Status

Most farm programs ended on September 30, 2007, with expiration of the 2002 farm law, although some temporary measures were put in place to continue some programs. At this time, the House of Representatives and Senate have both passed legislation regarding federal farm programs. The next step would be to resolve the differences and then forward a single farm bill that could be approved by Congress and the President.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Issues

--**PRESCRIBED BURNS:** Some CRP participants are required to conduct prescribed burns to meet contract responsibilities, and other CRP producers want to burn CRP to control volunteer trees or for other reasons. Prescribed burns on CRP acres are permitted from **FEBRUARY 1** through **APRIL 14**, and some cost-share funds may be possible for "optional" burns if requested in advance at the FSA office. Prescribed burns with cost-share make the acreage ineligible for "managed" haying or grazing during the year of the burn. Burning CRP is prohibited from **APRIL 15** through **JULY 15** since it is the primary nesting period for upland birds.

--**NEW CRP OFFERS:** A "general" CRP signup is not anticipated in the near future. However, CRP signup is ongoing (at least until **MARCH 15**) for "continuous" practices such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), contour and terrace grass strips, riparian, and quail buffers. Many of these practices offer a \$100 per acre signing incentive up front, and higher cost-share and annual rental payments. The only limited acreage allocation at this time is for quail buffers.

--**NEW CRP SEEDINGS:** Producers with new CRP acreage are encouraged to timely establish required covers. If an acceptable cover crop has been approved, native grass seeding can begin as soon as possible and continue through **MAY 15, 2008**. CRP participants should contact NRCS personnel about seeding information.

Farm Reconstitutions

--**Recons:** A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts of land that have the same owner and same operator. The sale of a specific tract within a farm would be an instance that FSA would likely require a farm reconstitution to divide the farm. Farm reconstitutions could also involve combining tracts to create new farms. In either case, farm reconstitutions should be requested by **JUNE 1**. A special "Landowner Designation" method is available to allow farm program bases to be divided in a manner agreed to by all buyers and sellers. This method should be completed in advance of the land transaction and must be requested in writing including the signatures of all buyers and sellers.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

FSFL continued...

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

The last sales closing date for 2008 NAP coverage is **MARCH 17**, which includes sorghum forage and numerous fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The cost is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 for multi-county interests. Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that good record keeping and disaster reporting is required. Producers should discuss the requirements for acceptable production evidence with FSA personnel.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, contact the FSA office – Phone: 913-795-2940.

CCC-1099 G Payment Information

Producers should have received their 2007 farm program payment information on form CCC-1099G. Producers should be aware that **refunds** no longer appear on form CCC-1099G. Contact the FSA office if you have questions.

NEED DEBTS REFINANCED OR 2008 OPERATING CREDIT?

Do you have outstanding operating debt or bank debt that needs refinanced? Do you need operating credit for 2008? FSA Farm Loans can help. Low interest rate loans from 3.75% to 3.875% are available. FSA can provide 100% financing. Some of the qualifications for an applicant are: must have sufficient repayment ability; have sufficient loan collateral; and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender. One exception is that FSA cannot refinance real estate debt.

LOANS continued...

These rates are effective for February. Rates are subject to change in March. If you are a Socially Disadvantaged Persons (SDA) there are reserved loan funds available. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in Ottawa administers farm loan programs for Linn County producers. Please contact their office at (785) 242-3527 ext 38 or 41 if you have any questions about the programs above or want to make an appointment.

2008 Acreage Reports

With farm law still being developed, May 31, 2008, will likely be the deadline to timely file acreage reports for 2008-crop wheat, **oats**, and barley. Most farm operators have already reported their wheat acres, and we encourage others to report by MARCH 15 if possible. FSA measurement services using GPS equipment are available at established costs if you are unsure of your acreage.

Full Time CED on Duty

With recent office consolidations closing eight FSA offices across Kansas, efforts are being made to end shared management. After being in shared management for nearly nine years, Linn County will now be a stand alone county. Linn County had previously been in shared management with Bourbon County for almost 7 years and then Anderson County for the last 15 Months. County Executive Directors, Doug Niemeir and Jolene Alexander have returned to their respective counties as full time managers. The Linn County Office would like to express their appreciation of Doug and Jolene's hard work while in shared management. The Linn County FSA Committee hired Brian Lueker as their CED. Brian started his duties as CED in February of 2008 in Mound City.

Foreign Land Ownership

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.

2007 Commodity Loan Deadlines

MARCH 31 is the final date to request commodity loans for 2007-crop wheat, oats, and barley. JUNE 2 is the same deadline for 2007-crop grain sorghum (milo), corn, soybeans, and sunflowers.



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