



McPherson County FSA News

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

KANSAS



APRIL 2008

McPherson County FSA

200 S Centennial Drive
McPherson, KS 67460-4012
TEL: (620) 241-1836
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Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Michael O. Patrick, Chairperson
Dixie Mattas, Vice-Chairperson
Greg S. Goering, Member

*COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month
@ 8:30 a.m.*

Employee Information

Michael Westerman, CED
Jan Hake, Program Technician
Kathy Meacham, Program Technician
Pat Regier, Program Technician
Kristy Nattier, Program Technician
Cloe Hedlund, Program Technician
Jennifer Bartel, Program Technician
Keri Vannoster, Temp Program Tech
Dan Mason, Field Assistant
[FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

RECORD CHANGES

It is the producer's responsibility to report **ALL** changes in their farming operation. If you have bought, sold, renting different land, or changed shares please be sure you report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract.

Please do not work out a deal on your own as this will ultimately have an impact on LDP's, crop disaster or insurance that could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

MAY 5 – Deadline for Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAPIII).

MAY 26 – Closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2 – Final date to report wheat, barley, oats and triticale acreages.

JUNE 2 – is the final date to request a loan and/or LDP on 2007-crop corn, milo, soybeans and/or sunflowers.

JULY 4 – Closed for Independence Day

AUGUST 1 – Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, CRP, and any other land uses.

SEPTEMBER 1 – Closed for Labor Day

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage facilities. The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Dairy producers who suffered production losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb 28, 2007, because of qualifying natural disasters can apply for benefits. Please call our office to schedule an appointment or for additional information. Signup deadline is May 5, 2008.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE!



The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP signup for quantity loss currently does not have a deadline.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in only one year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Please call immediately to schedule an appointment as we do not know when the disaster signup will end.

DO YOU HAVE LIVESTOCK?

Livestock producers may be eligible for assistance if losses directly associated from natural disasters occurred between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2005. We are currently taking appointments for the following two livestock programs:



Livestock Compensation Program – Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation. Livestock producers incurring losses in more than 1 year may only receive assistance for one year.

Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes.

Some basic information needed for applications is as follows:

- 1) **Number of livestock owned** at the beginning date of the disaster designation that were intended to be put on pastures (May 1 through October 31).
- 2) **Proof of Livestock Numbers:** previous years calf sales, bank asset ledgers, taxes, veterinarian bills, diaries or personal record keeping items.
- 3) **Pasture locations** – Legal descriptions of all pastures, stocking rates used and % of grazing loss incurred.
- 4) **Signed lease agreements** will be needed for pastures that FSA does not have you listed on the land as a tenant.

Livestock Indemnity Program – Assistance is available to eligible livestock owners and contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred due to a natural disaster. Those incurring losses in more than 1 year may receive assistance for only one year.

NEW FSA STAFF

You may have noticed some new faces in our office. Please help us welcome Cloe Hedlund and Jennifer Bartel to our McPherson FSA Team. Cloe is handling Administrative and Crop Disaster duties. Jennifer's duties include compliance, insurance requests, direct deposits, and power-of-attorneys. We also welcome Keri Vannoster to our staff on a temporary basis.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER ON RECONSTITUTIONS

Farm divisions will normally result in base acreage being split in proportion to the resulting cropland acreage for each resulting farm. However, many times the LANDOWNER DESIGNATION method may be requested to divide the acreage as agreed to in writing by all parties prior to an ownership transfer. This method works well with small acreages that will be devoted to residential sites, etc. Contact the FSA office if you have questions regarding this method.

HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR SMALL GRAINS?

Check your records to make sure you have reported your 2008 wheat, barley, oats and triticale. We provide a producer print after you have reported that summarizes the crops and acres for all your farms. Please schedule an appointment to report your acres as the deadline of June 2nd is fast approaching.

FARM BILL????

A third extension was recently signed that will go through April 25th. This allows Congress and the President to either work out a new farm bill or extend the 2002 Farm Bill. We will let you know as soon as we receive any information on how we will handle a signup.

REMINDERS

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.

RECONSTITUTIONS

To be effective for 2008, farm combinations and divisions must be requested no later than **August 1, 2008**.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct interest US Agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located.

CHANGING BANKS

If you have recently changed financial institutions remember to advise FSA as it will affect your FSA payments by delaying them until it is resolved.

CLEARING LAND OR ALTERING WETLANDS

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. NRCS will then determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for USDA benefits. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for USDA benefits.

BUYING OR SELLING CRP

If you are considering buying or selling CRP we would strongly recommend you visit our office so you are fully aware of the succession process. New owners must succeed to the CRP contract within 60 calendar days of the sales closing date or the CRP contract will be terminated and the previous landowner must refund all CRP payments plus interest for the entire contract period.

New owners who succeed to the CRP contract are agreeing to the CRP terms and conditions, and entering into a binding agreement for the remainder of the CRP contract. If the CRP contract is subsequently terminated, the new owners will be responsible for refunding all payments made since the effective date of CRP-1, including payments earned by previous participants.

An operator or tenant cannot be replaced unless the operator or tenant agrees, in writing, to voluntarily withdraw from CRP-1 and is determined by the County Committee to no longer be an eligible participant.

FSA YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes loans of up to \$5,000 to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

NEW FLP STAFF MEMBER

We welcome Mr. Rick Bush to the Farm Loan Programs staff in Salina. Mr. Bush is from Allen, located approximately 20 miles North of Emporia in the Flinthills of Kansas. He grew up around agriculture, working with grandparents that operate a diversified row crop, a cow/calf operation, and a no-till crop operation. Mr. Bush attended Kansas State University for two years majoring in Agriculture before transferring to Emporia State University to obtain a Business Management degree. Following graduation Mr. Bush completed a year of training in FSA's Farm Loan Officer Training Program in Girard, Kansas before transferring to the Salina office. Mr. Bush looks forward to serving agricultural lenders, farmers and ranchers in Ellsworth, Saline, Ottawa, McPherson, Geary and Dickinson counties.

FSA FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, supplies and carryover operating expenses. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you are having trouble getting commercial credit at affordable rates and terms, please contact the Farm Loan Program personnel in the Saline County Office about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.



PREVENTED OR FAILED ACREAGE CREDIT

If you have been **prevented from planting** a crop due to a natural disaster you must request acreage credit within 15 days from the final planting date. If you are considering **destroying a crop** that has failed because of a disaster related condition you must request acreage credit prior to destroying the crop.

A request for acreage credit is made by filing form CCC-576. The request must be timely filed as a field visit is typically performed to verify the conditions and there are no provisions for late filing a CCC-576. The CCC-576 will provide FSA with an historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available and the crop should be reported on form FSA-578 as either failed or prevented. If the crop will be taken to harvest you will not need to file form CCC-576.

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. Prohibited uses are basically anything that is not in your conservation plan.

A few examples are: asphalt/concrete plants, trash disposal areas, livestock feed storage, permanent road/trails, cosmetic mowing, mowing of strips for hunting, no buildings, oil/gas wells, associated tanks and access roads, and parking or storage of machinery, junked autos, etc.



The County Committee may authorize on a case-by-case basis the installation of wind turbines on CRP. Please contact our office **prior to the installation** so we can go over the requirements for your particular situation. It is very important to contact our office before placing anything on CRP or doing something that is not in your Conservation Plan.