

# Stevens County Update

Stevens County  
USDA Service Center

Stevens County FSA  
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www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee  
Bryne Sullins  
Richard James  
Steven Davis  
Vickie Hull, Advisor

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each  
month at 8:00 a.m.

Office Staff:  
Tia Bell, CED  
Pam Hickey, PT  
Linda Skinner, PT  
Nola Walker, PT  
Tommy Romero, Sr.,

## **REPORTING FAILED ACRES**

Unfortunately, the much needed moisture once again skipped on by the southwest corner of Kansas and a failed wheat crop could be a realistic possibility. Therefore, it will be even more important that producers know that in order to keep their cropping history for their wheat, they will need to contact their FSA Office to file a Notice of Loss (CCC-576), prior to destroying their failed wheat acres.

By notifying the Farm Service Agency of these failed acres, it will give us the ability to certify the affected acres as failed, which in turn will keep the acres on the FSA-578, or crop certification. This will eliminate any potential discrepancies between the Farm Service Agency and insurance company's records.

In accordance to Farm Service Agency regulations, if a producer destroys a crop prior to notifying their FSA Office, then those acres will be deleted from the certification, and the subsequent crop will be the only crop certified for that acreage for that crop year. Keep in mind that this could have an adverse reaction, for example in the case of the Crop Disaster Program, which looks to previous acreage reports to determine eligibility on losses suffered. Also, this could present problems when insurance companies ask for acreage certifications for compliance purposes, as that crop will not be listed on the producer print crop certification.

With the current dry and windy conditions, taking the appropriate steps to control blowing or eroding ground does not define destroying the crop as long as the intent is to still take the acreage to harvest. At the point that a determination to not take the acreage to harvest is made, that is when the Farm Service Agency needs to be notified and a Notice of Loss filed.

Please notify your Farm Service Agency prior to destroying any failed crop to avoid losing the cropping history on the failed crop acreage.

## **FSA WEBSITE**

For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **REPORT WHEAT ACRES**

Even with the unknown outcome of the future Farm Bill, one thing is still certain - you will have to certify the acres on your farm for the current crop year.

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to certify your small grain acres to the Farm Service Agency, so please contact the FSA Office to set up an appointment to report your wheat acres.

## **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

The Farm Service Agency has been accepting applications for the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop Disaster Program.

A final application date has not been established, however, one is expected to be announced sometime in the near future. This is an opportunity that producers and/or landowners do not want to miss out on, so please visit your local Farm Service Agency to ensure that you have applied timely for this program.

For the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop Disaster Program, regulations require that insurance, or FSA NAP coverage had been purchased for the crop that suffered a loss. This insurance information has been downloaded to the Farm Service Agency and therefore does not require further insurance documentation. All that is required is a phone call or visit to the Farm Service Agency and we will be able to let you know if you have any eligible losses that qualify for payment

## **Foreign Investors 90 Day Reporting Rule**

Foreign investors acquiring or transferring any interest in agricultural land exceeding 10 acres are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days. Failure to disclose this interest can result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the land's market value.



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**Keep Your Information Up-to-Date**

FSA asks for your help in keeping records current. This includes changes in ownership, whether by a land sale or transfer due to inheritance. It is your responsibility to notify us by providing a copy of the recorded deed, sales contract or the property tax statement. Also, needed is the social security number and mailing address of the new owner.

It is important that our office be timely notified of deceased producers. FSA is being scrutinized for issuing payments in such cases. As soon as a death is reported, we can begin to correct our records to ensure payments are issued correctly.

If your farm operator has changed or you have acquired new land to farm, you need to notify the FSA office as soon as possible.

Notify us promptly of address changes and changes in your bank account that would require a new direct deposit form.

Also, we must updated on any changes within entity organizations such as trusts, corporations, partnerships, etc. FSA requires that current legal entity paperwork be filed with our office to ensure proper signature authority.

**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to commercial crops or agricultural commodities, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of the average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline. **March 15** is the application closing date for spring seeded crops.



**LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS**

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-ups are ongoing. Eligible livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed and or grazing losses and or LIP for livestock death losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

**LCP** - The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed or grazing losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in a disaster designated county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed or grazing loss or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, deer, equine and sheep that are part of a commercial farming operation. Documentation must include an inventory of eligible animals on hand either January 1, 2005 or January 1, 2006. Written, signed leases must be provided if the grazing acres were not reported and certified in the year of the disaster.

**LIP** - The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, in disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, equine, goats, and sheep that are part of a commercial farming operation. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

More information on these Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs, please contact our office.

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

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