



February 2007

307 Montana Ave  
Holton, KS 66436

Phone: 785-364-3329  
Fax: 785-364-4891

Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee:**

George Phillips  
Henry Williams  
Jo Anne Booth  
Chris DeCoteau

Committee meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 am.

**Staff:**

Aaron Fall, CED  
Kathy Barnett  
Marlene Westermann  
Dara Conley

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

NAP Deadline – **3/15/07**

Final Day to request a loan or LDP on wheat & oats – **3/31/07**

Final Date to Report Small Grains – **5/31/07**

Final Date to request a loan or LDP for corn, soybeans, & milo – **5/31/07**

DCP Deadline - **6/1/07**

Final day to report feed grain acres – **8/1/07**

**Office Closed**

February 19, 2007 – George Washington's Birthday

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (Not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# JACKSON COUNTY FSA NEWS

**2007 DCP SIGN-UP**

Sign-up for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is currently underway. **Producers are reminded that in order to be eligible for payment, contracts must be renewed annually.** The 2002 Farm Bill provided for payments to be made to eligible producers for covered commodities regardless of market prices.

The Jackson County Farm Service Agency is currently taking appointments to enroll producers in the 2007 DCP program. Producers are eligible for a 22% advance direct payment; however producers must sign a new contract in order to receive the advance payment. As a reminder, all signatures must be obtained or a cash lease agreement on file before a payment can be issued. It is the producer's responsibility to obtain all required signatures or present a cash lease agreement.

Producers have until June 1, 2006 to enroll in the 2007 DCP program; late filed applications will be accepted until September 30, 2006 with a \$100 late file penalty assessed.

**SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**

Proper signature authority is required for anyone participating in FSA programs. Failure to have the proper signature authority could result in the loss of benefits. It is recommended that producers verify with the FSA office that proper signature authority is on file.

FSA has been reviewing signature authority and verifying that proper documentation is on file. In many cases completing a FSA-211 Power of Attorney form will provide sufficient evidence of authority, as long as all the grantors have signed the FSA-211.

FSA does allow spouses to act on one another's behalf. However, a spouse may only act on the individual's interest.

There are some cases that a FSA-211 may not provide proper authority. In these cases legal documentation may be necessary. A few examples of these situations are trusts, estates, conservatorship, or guardianships. In these instances an order of appointment, letter of appointment, or trust agreement would be appropriate. This requirement does not negate the opportunity for the individual that has been granted signature authority to redelegate authority for another individual to sign on behalf of the entity. However, a FSA-211 must be properly completed for this re delegation to occur.

Please remember when signing an FSA document in a representative capacity to include "by" or "for" and the representative's title in the signature block.

**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

**ACREAGE REPORTING**

The 2002 Farm Bill requires all cropland on a farm to be reported as condition for receiving payments under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), as well as loan deficiency payments (LDP's), and marketing assistance loans.

Producers may begin reporting the acres they have planted to small grains as soon as they have completed their planting. The final day to report **wheat, oats, barley, rye, triticale, and field peas is May 31.** The final day to report feed grains and CRP is **August 1.**

**ANNUAL CRP MAINTENANCE REMINDER**

CRP participants should review their Conservation Plans and address any CRP maintenance issues that could be a violation of the CRP contract. A maintenance rate is included in the annual rental payment to assist in the cost of maintaining the CRP acreage. Items to address includes: **trees, brush, noxious and non-noxious weeds, erosion problems, vehicles or implements parked on CRP.** Failure to address these concerns could result in penalties and possibly contract termination.

Please remember that unauthorized mowing, haying, and grazing are not permitted on CRP acres. **Fire lanes and fuel breaks are permitted if prior approval for the County Committee is obtained.**

As a reminder the CRP cover shall not be disturbed during the primary nesting this includes burning and spraying, spot treatment is permissible during the nesting season. The brood rearing season is **April 15 to July 15.**

**CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

The Continuous CRP (CCRP) Signup is ongoing for eligible producers. The program offers rental and incentive payments on small acreages. Some of the practices include waterways, filter strips, shelter belts, riparian buffers, and grassed terraces. CCRP contracts range from no less than 10 years and no greater than 15 years in length. Producers interested in CCRP may contact the office with any questions they have regarding the program.

**UPLAND BIRD HABITAT (CP33)**

The Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative aims to create early successional grass buffers along agricultural field borders.

Payments include signing incentives of up to \$100 per acre, Practice Incentive Payments of up to 40 percent of the eligible establishment cost, cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of eligible reimbursable costs, and annual rental payments and maintenance costs.

To be eligible, cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. Other criteria also apply, so ask the county office staff for details

#### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

The Jackson County Farm Service Agency is pleased to welcome George Phillips. George was elected to serve on the Jackson County Farm Service Agency Committee. George will represent the farmers and ranchers of the Local Administrative Area 3, which includes the townships of Franklin, Cedar, Garfield, Douglas East, & Douglas West.

#### **FOREIGN INVESTORS RULE**

Foreign owners of U.S. 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 their local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in agricultural land.

#### **HAZARDOUS WEATHER POLICY**

Please contact the Service Center in the event of hazardous weather before visiting to ensure the office is open. If weather conditions pose a threat to the safety of the employees, the agencies in the Service Center may implement the hazardous weather policy and close the office.

#### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The interest rate changes each month.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

#### **NONINSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

The deadline for producers to apply for NAP coverage is March 15, 2007. Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Eligible crops are floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed). Producers who wish to apply for NAP coverage must complete the CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the administrative service fee before the deadline.

#### **SALE OF LAND OR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP**

Potential successors-in-interest to land with base acres participating in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) need to be aware of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 Requirements.

The statute requires that if a transfer of, or change in, the interest of the producers on a farm with base acres for which direct payments or counter-cyclical payments are made shall result in the termination of the payments with respect to the base acres, unless the transferee or owner of the acreage agrees to assume all obligations under the contract. These transfers or changes are successions-in-interest. A producer or owner must inform the County FSA Committee of the changes in interest no later than September 30 of the current fiscal year.

If a change in interest occurs requiring a succession to the DCP contract (CCC-509), but the contract is not revised and signed by the successors by September 30:

- neither the predecessors nor the successors are eligible for the current year DCP payments on the farm
- the DCP contract shall be terminated for the current year
- all DCP payments issued for the current year shall be refunded,
- the successors may sign a contract for the subsequent fiscal years.

#### **BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES**

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

#### **SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER**

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any kind of dirt work.