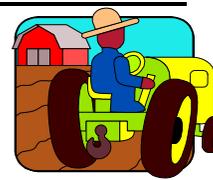




USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



Leavenworth-Wyandotte
County FSA Office
2050 Spruce St
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048
913-682-1085
Fax 913-682-7886
County Committee Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month

July 2007
Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Staff: Kay Campbell, Lead Program Technician
Jackie Schwinn, Program Technician
Susan Sprang, Program Technician
David Zule, Field Assistant
Rick Abel, County Executive Director

FARMERS HAVE 60 DAYS TO ELECT A COUNTY OFFICE

If you are a farm owner or operator of record in Leavenworth or Wyandotte County, you should have received a letter notifying you of the impending closure of the Leavenworth FSA Office, and of your option to allow your farm records to be transferred to the Jefferson County office in Oskaloosa, or have them transferred to one of three neighboring county offices. The choices are Atchison County (Effingham), Douglas County (Lawrence), and Platte County (Platte City). Your letter gives you 60 days from June 25th (August 24th) to elect an office other than Oskaloosa. If you DO NOT want your farm records to be sent to Oskaloosa, you will need to contact the Jefferson Office (785-863-2221) or the Leavenworth office (913-682-1085) and let us know by August 14th. We will send you a farm records transfer request form (FSA-179) which must be signed by all producers who have an interest in that farm. After all signatures are obtained, the completed form must be returned to the Jefferson or Leavenworth County office for processing. If you request a transfer form, and it is not returned with all necessary signatures, your records will be transferred to Oskaloosa.

WHEN WILL THE TRANSFER TAKE PLACE?

Your records will continue to be serviced out of the Leavenworth location until after final DCP payments and CRP payments are issued in October. After that time, processing of farm records transfers will take place to be effective for the 2008 fiscal year. The physical move of all remaining records to the Jefferson County office will depend on arrangements for the space necessary for the Jefferson County building to accommodate the additional records, equipment, furniture and personnel.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR NRCS RECORDS?

There was an NRCS letter which accompanied the letter sent by FSA. The NRCS office and staff will be moving also. The future location of the Leavenworth Conservation District staff is still uncertain at this time. We are working with NRCS to make sure your transfer request is honored. We can't think of a situation where transferring your NRCS records to a different location than your FSA records would benefit you, but if you choose to do so, be sure you contact NRCS and make that clear.

WHAT IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A LETTER?

Our records are only as up to date as the information that current landowners and operators have provided to us. It is our understanding that only one letter will be sent per household, therefore, it is possible that not all eligible producers will receive the letter. If you did not get a letter and feel that you should have, please contact the Leavenworth County office now. We may need your most recent address, or we may not have you on record as an owner or tenant.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE OFFICE STAFF?

The Leavenworth office staff will receive re-assignments to one or more of the outlying offices based on the percentage of Leavenworth and Wyandotte County farm records that are transferred to each of the outlying offices. Rick Abel, current CED of the Leavenworth-Wyandotte and Atchison County offices under a shared-management agreement, will be assigned full-time to the Atchison County office in Effingham. Norma McConkey, current CED in Jefferson County, will continue to be the CED for Jefferson County, in addition to her added responsibilities of Leavenworth and Wyandotte County, at the Oskaloosa location.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHERE TO SEND YOUR RECORDS?

There are many factors that could affect your decision. Proximity and convenience are the first things that come to mind. If you are a landowner that rents your land, you may want to consider the effect your decision will have on your operator. Most operators have multiple rented farms and work with more than one landlord. Having all of their farms in one location would be a greater convenience. Another consideration is the County Committee election process. If your records go to Oskaloosa, you will be an eligible voter to the Jefferson-Leavenworth-Wyandotte County Committee, and will be eligible to run, and be elected to the County Committee. If you choose to have your records sent to one of the three outlying offices, you will be an eligible voter to that County Committee, but you cannot run and be elected to serve on that Committee.

IS THE DECISION YOU MAKE PERMANENT?

The letter indicates that your decision will be permanent. There are always circumstances that allow for concessions when a situation causes undue hardship to a producer. Requests to make changes to your home county after this process is complete will be handled on an individual basis. Not all situations will justify allowance of a change, so please give this process some deep thought now, and make the best decision you can based on your current circumstances.

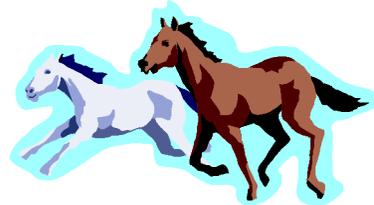
FSA DEADLINES APPROACH

Acreage Reporting: August 1 is the deadline for producers to report acreage of 2007 corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and other cropland that are planted in the county. When reporting, you will need to identify the field, planting date, intended use of the crop, and shares. **REMEMBER:** Late-filing fees have gone up. The minimum is \$46 per farm, so don't miss this important deadline. Acreage reporting is required if you participate in CRP, DCP or wish to obtain an LDP or commodity loan.

DCP Signup Extended: The signup period for enrollment in the 2007 direct and counter cyclical program has been extended to August 3rd. All contract signatures must be obtained and returned to the FSA office by this deadline to be considered timely filed. The late-filed period will run from August 3rd through September 30th. There is a \$100 per farm fee charged for each late-filed contract provided during this period. Advance payments on the direct portion of the DCP benefit are 22% of the total direct earnings.

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 practical 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, change of address, changes of shares, changes of operator or tenant, change in bank or bank account, etc.



REMINDERS:

- Farm Storage Facility Loans are available. If you meet all eligibility requirements, you can receive a loan on up to 85% of the total facility cost. For any loans over \$50,000, a lien on the underlying real estate is required. The loan is for seven years, with annual installments of principle plus interest. There is a \$45 application fee and the interest rate is locked in for the entire loan period. The current interest rate for July is 5.0%.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try www.fsa.usda.gov.

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