

**NEOSHO  
COUNTY FSA  
NEWS**



**March, 2007**

**Donna J. Sifers**  
County Executive Director

**Office Hours**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Neosho County FSA Office**  
124 W. State, Suite 2  
Erie, Kansas 66733

Phone: 620-244-3491  
FAX: 620-244-3582

**County Committee**  
Teresa Bogner  
Donald Taylor  
Donald Vitt  
Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month  
at 9:00 a.m.

**Office Staff**  
Teresa Cox  
Marcia Fickel  
Rena Lucas

### **DCP Sign up is Underway**

The final year of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway with sign up ending June 1, 2007. DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. Participants may elect to receive their direct payments in two installments per year with the first payment, available in December, set at up to 22 percent of the total payment. The balance of the total direct payment is available in October of the fiscal year after the fiscal year the payment is earned. Producers who do not elect to take an advance payment will receive the entire direct payment at this time. Producers may also elect to receive up to three counter-cyclical payments per year. For your convenience, you may contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment. Additional information on DCP and other FSA programs are available at your local FSA office, or on FSA's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **Farm Loan Programs**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to farm operators. These may be made to beginning farmers or established farmers. Special funding is set aside for females and members of certain minority groups. These loans are tailored to a producer's needs and may be used to buy farmland, machinery, livestock, or finance agricultural production.

FSA offers several types of loan programs. Under the Guaranteed Loan Program, FSA guarantees loans made by conventional agricultural lenders. All loans must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers interested in Guaranteed Loans apply directly with a conventional lender who then arranges for the guarantee.

FSA additionally offers Direct Loans. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Loans may be considered for up to 100% of security value. As of March, 2007 the direct Operating loan interest rate is 5.125% and the direct Farm Ownership interest rate is 5.375%. Farm Ownership loans utilizing a combination of Direct and commercial financing are available at 4% or 5% interest rates. To apply for a direct loan, contact the Farm Loan Program staff in Girard, Kansas at 620-724-6227, Ext. 229. The Farm Loan Program staff will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs. Funding is limited, so it is suggested that inquiries be made as soon as an applicant's credit needs are identified.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

### **Measurement Service Rate Change**

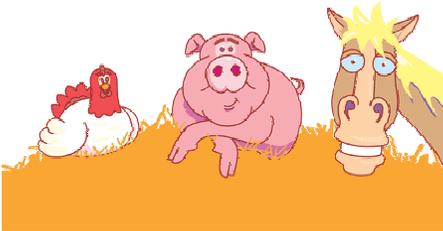
Effective October 25, 2006, the basic fee for performing measurement services in Kansas has been set as \$46.00 per farm. The fee applies to field staking and referencing, bin measurements, and late-filed crop reporting verification. An additional \$8.00 will be assessed for measurements in excess of one hour. Mileage rates will not apply.



### **Farm Record Changes**

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land; make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office as soon as possible after the change occurs. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could result in overpayments or ineligibility to receive benefits

### **FSAKids**



**Did You Know?** The average kid in America eats about 46 slices of pizza a year. In the U.S. pepperoni is the number one favorite topping and anchovies are last. In Japan the favorite topping is squid! Wisconsin is the state that grows the most cranberries. Each year cranberry producers grow more than 300 million pounds of cranberries. Take your children on a journey to the following website for more games, puzzles, and trivia! <http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsa/kids/>

### **Special Accommodations**

Special Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call your local FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

### **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 March interest rate is 4.750%. Seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipments, 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 your local county office staff.

### **Crop Reports Due**

Participation in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) requires participants to annually report their planted acreage of crops as well as any acreage devoted to CRP. Acres planted to wheat, oats, barley, triticale or others considered "small grains" must be reported by June 1, 2007. Acreage devoted to CRP and spring planted crops must be reported by August 1, 2007. Reports taken after these deadlines are considered "late-filed" and are subject to a late-filed fee to cover the cost of a field inspection to verify presence of the crop.

### **Conducting USDA Business On-line**

Producers can obtain an eAuthentication level 2 account and conduct USDA business on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from home. This access requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to a USDA Service Center for identity verification. You must have an e-mail address. On-line FSA business can include e-DCP, e-LDP, Financial Inquiry, Customer Statement, and e-Representative.