

December 2007

Ottawa County FSA Office

877 Laurel
Minneapolis, Kansas 67467
(785)392-3393
(785)392-2547 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Ken Berry, Chairperson
Vera Freeman, Vice-Chairperson
Tim Myers, Member

Mtg. 1st Wednesday of the Month

Staff

David Pounds, CED
Bette Steinbrock, PT
Valerie Crum, PT
Renda Brown, PT

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
FSA Forms-
www.sc.egov.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

NAP Crop Information

The sales closing date for 2008 NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) crops are:

September 1, 2007; small grains including wheat and triticale grazing.

December 1, 2007, alfalfa, all grasses for hay or forage, and oats forage.

March 15, 2008, sorghum for forage and other spring forage crops.

2007 NAP Production – if not submitted, now is the time to report 2007 NAP crop production to FSA. Reporting the production is needed to maintain an APH (Actual Production History) or in determining a loss. Any bale counts need to be verified by FSA prior to feeding.

If a loss is evident on your farm it is the producer's responsibility to report the loss within 15 days of the disaster event.

2007 Loan Rates

Wheat	\$2.96
Corn	\$2.00
Soybeans	\$4.83
Oats	\$1.37
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.21 cwt.
Sunflowers	\$8.32 cwt.

December interest rate is 4.750%.

Ottawa County FSA News

Crop Disaster Program

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15, 2007 for producers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006, and crops planted prior to February 28, 2007.

Losses occurring from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was harvested in 2005, 2006, or planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits per farm administrative county. Participants may apply for loss benefits in multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent of the higher of the producers APH or the county average yield to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price level. FCIC insurance RMA information has been sent to FSA for the losses on file for all three years. If Ottawa County is your administrative county and you had a loss on property located in another county inform our office of the loss. Information was downloaded from RMA on cropland only located in Ottawa County.

Only those producers who had FCIC crop insurance coverage on grain crops or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on forage crops are eligible for CDP.

Please contact our office to schedule an appointment for the quantity loss signup. Those producers who feel they would have a greater loss based on quality losses will have a designated signup to be announced at a later date.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

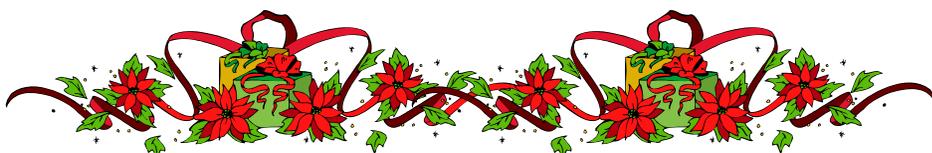
The LIP program compensates producers who suffered livestock deaths caused by Natural Disaster conditions or events (except drought). In summary applicants must provide proof that the livestock deaths are due to natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007.

LIP applicants must provide the following:

- Proof the livestock met eligibility requirements.
- Proof of the death of the claimed livestock.
- Proof that the death occurred in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster condition/event:
 - between January 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007.
 - no later than 60 days from the end of the applicable disaster period, but before Feb. 28, 2007.
 - in the calendar year of which benefit is requested.

Documentation may include one or more of the following: Bank or loan records, veterinarian records, rendering truck receipts, written contracts, purchase or production records, insurance documents, IRS records, or FEMA records. A "third party certification" may be an acceptable proof of death if no other evidence is available and it meets other specific requirements.

Eligible Livestock are beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, swine, and horses used in a commercial operation. Other livestock may be eligible, call if you have questions.





Crop Acreage Report

We will start taking acreage reports once we have the software to do so. At this point we do not have a Farm Program so we do not know what requirements if any will be affiliated to the 2008 Program.

Reminders

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will be mailed out by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. The form may be completed and returned or completed on-line.

Conservation Reserve Program – Producers interested in signing up for any of the continuous CRP practices need to have everything signed and approved prior to December 31, 2007. Provisions for signing up CRP expire with the expiration of the 2007 Farm Bill unless congress acts to extend the rules.

Record Changes – If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes to FSA as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest may lead to potential program ineligibility and damages.

New Farm Bill – We have no information on what is planned once the current Farm Bill Expires during 2007.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its 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 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 of Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th 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.

Livestock Compensation Program

The LCP program covers grazing losses due to natural disasters for crop years 2005, 2006, and prior to February 28, 2007. Ottawa County will be dealing primarily with 2006 grazing losses due to the qualifying disaster condition or event that began January 1, 2006. Eligible livestock include: beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, and horses used in a commercial operation. If you have other livestock, ask to see if they would be eligible. The livestock must have been owned or cash leased on January 1, 2006 in most cases. Loss benefit is based on livestock numbers or grazing land information. The maximum benefit for adult cows is \$10.66 per animal unit based on qualifying details.

You will need to know the number of livestock owned on January 1, 2006 that were intended to be placed on pastures for the 2006 grazing season of May through October, 2006. If you owned qualifying livestock on January 1, 2006, sold the livestock prior to May but also purchased the same type livestock as a replacement prior to May, these would remain eligible. If you sold some of the qualifying livestock prior to May for reasons other than the disaster and did not replace the livestock, the numbers sold would not be eligible for LCP.

Producers will apply for loss benefit in the farm(s) administrative county.

A summary, of LCP eligible livestock and grazing land: the producer signs the farm up for LCP in that farm(s) FSA administrative county. All eligible livestock on the farm as of January 1, 2006 is eligible for benefit provided those livestock will be carried through the grazing season and placed in pastures in May.

Questions you will need to answer when submitting your application. If you have livestock other than cattle please present info on the respective stock:

What is your normal operation? Describe it to me.

- Did you cull cows in 2005? In 2006?
- Did you purchase replacement cows in 2005? In 2006?
- Do you bring heifers into the herd? Are they home grown and if so when were they born; or were they purchased, when was the purchase date?
- What were your cattle numbers on the beginning date of the disaster designation (January 1, 2006 in most cases)? Provide weights of calves.
- Of the number on hand January 1, 2006, how many of the cattle were on hand May 1, 2006? --
- How many of the cattle that were on hand May 1, were culled or sold not because of the disaster?

You will need to identify each pasture: Please have ready the legal description, acreage, number of livestock and type of livestock during the 2006 grazing period, the dates the pasture was grazed, the grazing loss sustained for each pasture and copies of the pasture leases signed by the owner (any verbal leases must be put in writing and signed by the owner or owners. Canceled checks are not sufficient for proof.)

You need to provide proof of livestock numbers (as of January 1, 2006 in most cases) when requested. Included would be sales of livestock from January 1 through the end of the grazing season and invoices of purchased cattle if those sold were replaced. Proof would include: bank asset ledgers, diaries or personal record keeping systems, invoice of cattle sales or purchases, etc.

We ask that you call for an appointment to sign up for LCP.

Weather Reporters Wanted

Kansas State Climatologist Mary Knapp is recruiting volunteers in our area to report precipitations online on a daily basis or whenever possible. If interested contact the office or KSU Agronomy at 785-532-6101.