

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

FSA UPDATE

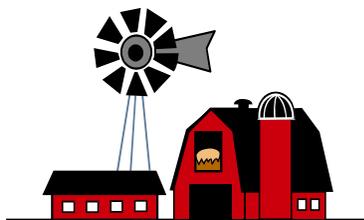
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
501 STATE ST
PO BOX 368
WESTMORELAND, KS 66549

PHONE: 785-457-3661
FAX: 785-457-2868

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

/s/ Lance W. Grutzmacher

Lance W. Grutzmacher
County Executive Director



MARCH 2007

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jonathan E. Berges
William J. Budenbender
Clara M. Ebert

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Second Tuesday each month

OFFICE MOVE

Due mainly to shortage of funds, there is a restructuring plan out that proposes consolidating the Wabaunsee County and Pottawatomie County FSA offices with a combined office in Wamego.

We will know in three or four months if the proposal will become a final plan. If the plan is finalized, the move is projected to be completed by late fall of 2007 or early spring of 2008.

DCP SIGN UP

June 1st is the last day to sign up in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). If you miss this deadline, you may still sign by September 30, 2007, however, a late payment fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed.

For 2007, the optional advance Direct Payment is 22% of the final payment due in October.

When you sign the DCP contract, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables (including nuts) or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres
- file an acreage report for all cropland on the farm
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer or change in interest of a producer.

Please call for an appointment. With our web-based programs and server problems, the computer system is sometimes slow. Calling ahead a day or two will save you time and give us time to get your paperwork ready.

REPORTING CROP ACREAGE

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments.

Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting must be filed by the last planting date for the crop and failed acreage must be filed before you destroy the crop.

Those of you who plant dual purpose sorghum silage must furnish a sales receipt showing the variety name and number before you can collect a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A good time to furnish us with a copy of the sales receipt would be when you report your acreage, instead of having to look the ticket up during harvest.

COC ELECTION

The County Committee (COC) election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 was held in December. We want to congratulate Jonathan Berges on his re-election. We appreciate his willingness to help FSA administer the numerous farm programs.

CRP

According to the President's 2008 budget, no general sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is assumed to occur from now to October 1, 2008.

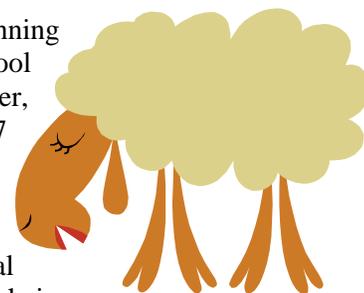
Continuous CRP requests will continue as normal. Continuous practices are small critical areas like filter-strips and waterways.

Haying and grazing requirements for CRP have changed due to a settlement on pending litigation with the National Wildlife Federation. The interpretation of this litigation is still being explained. In Pottawatomie County, no haying or grazing can start before July 15th. If you are interested in haying or grazing with a 25% payment reduction, contact us around July 15th for the details.

Remember, trees and brush must be controlled on your CRP acres.

WOOL

January 1 was the beginning of a new crop year for wool and mohair. Remember, you must sign a 2007 LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) request, form CCC-633EZ Page 1, before you lose beneficial interest in the wool/mohair or sell any unshorn fat lambs directly to the processor.



LOAN RATES

The Pottawatomie County loan rates for 2007 are:
WHEAT - \$2.94 /bu. GR. SORG. - \$3.31 /cwt.
CORN - \$1.88 /bu. SOYBEANS - \$4.86 /bu.

The last day to request a wheat, barley, or oats loan or LDP is March 31. Corn, grain sorghum, and soybean loans and LDPs must be requested before May 31. If you sold your grain last fall on one of the few days the LDP was in effect, and have not requested your LDP payment, you must request payment before the above deadline.



As you slide down the
banister of life,
May the splinters
never point in the
wrong direction!

NAP

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is an insurance program for crops not covered by multi-peril crop insurance. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county. The coverage is 55 percent of a set average market price for a loss that exceeds 50 percent of your yield.

The sales closing dates are: March 15 for coarse grains, vegetables, melons, pumpkins, squash; September 1 for small grains; and December 1 for grasses, alfalfa, and fruit.

GRAZE-OUT PAYMENTS

Loan deficiency payments are available for wheat, barley, oats, and triticale that is grazed out. To be eligible, you must report the acreage the earlier of June 1 or before it is grazed out. Then, after May 4 for wheat & triticale, or May 20 for barley & oats, and before March 31, 2008, you must come in and request your payment which is based on the LDP rate in effect for that day. If you later bale the crop, that acreage is not eligible for the graze-out program LDP payment.

SIGNING DOCUMENTS

In a simpler time, when producers visited the office to sign paperwork they simply signed their name. In today's world of "entities" – trusts, limited liability companies, partnerships, corporations – signing a form is not so simple anymore! When the name on the form is an entity, you are usually signing "by" or "for" someone. Examples –

John Doe Trust *by John Doe, Trustee* or John Doe Trust *for John Doe, Trustee by George Smith, POA.*

Make sure if you are signing for an entity that it is signed properly. Also, please tell us if your land ownership has changed from individual to trust.

CHANGING ACCOUNTS

Did you know the chances of having a problem with a payment are 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit?

To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in account numbers or financial institutions.

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 the office and we will be happy to make needed arrangements.

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.



May your home always
be too small to hold all
your friends.
God is good, but never
dance in a small boat.