

# POTTAWATOMIE/WABAUNSEE COUNTIES FARM SERVICE AGENCY



## **PT County Committee:**

Jonathan Berges, Chair  
William Budenbender, Vice Chair  
Clara Ebert, Member  
Lance Grutzmacher, CED

## **WB County Committee:**

Shirley A Stuewe, Chair  
Gerald Hund, Vice Chair  
Robert Kraus, Member  
Monte N. Johnson, CED

COC Mtg 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month @ 9:00 A.M.

COC Mtg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month @ 10:00 A.M.

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

**AUGUST 2007**

Monday through Friday

## **OFFICE CONSOLIDATION**

The office consolidation process is moving forward. As you all know the plan was approved on June 18, 2007. The first order of business was to select a county executive director (CED) for the combined counties. Lance Grutzmacher, CED in Pottawatomie, chose to retire effective the end of September after 32 plus years; 29 in Pottawatomie. Monte Johnson, who has been in Wabaunsee County for 10 years, will serve as CED of the consolidated office.



Lance passes along his thanks to all the Pottawatomie county farmers for being polite, kind and straight forward; therefore making his job easier and more enjoyable. He plans on staying in the county and hopes to see most of you as time goes on.

Wabaunsee County producers were sent out a consolidation letter (July 23, 2007). The producers are given an opportunity to keep their records with the move to Wamego (Wabaunsee/Pottawatomie) or transfer them to a more convenient location (Riley, Morris, Lyon, Osage, or Shawnee). The owner and operator will need to decide on the where they want the records located. If records will remain with Wabaunsee/Pottawatomie offices, no action is needed.

In the event that you want the records transferred to Manhattan, Council Grove, Emporia, Lyndon, and Topeka, please contact the Westmoreland FSA Office or the Alma FSA Office so the paperwork can be completed. This request needs to be completed within a 60-day time frame, (July 23, 2007 to September 21, 2007). Include a statement of how this choice will be more convenient for you. Your request is subject to the Pottawatomie County Committee approval.

## **NEXT STEP**

When will we move to Wamego? It could take about a year for things to fall into place since a building will need to be built or found. In the meantime, the Westmoreland FSA office and Alma FSA office will stay in their present buildings. The Wabaunsee County FSA office will transfer producers' records to the requested county offices (Lyon, Morris, Riley, Shawnee, and Osage).

The local election area will be changing. Right now each county has three elected representatives on the county committee. The number will change to five between the two counties. The current county committees have met and established a tentative border change to represent both counties.

We will keep you posted on any changes that affect you.

Remember: The final date to certify feed grains was August 1 – August 3 was the final day to sign up for DCP. If you missed these deadlines, there is provision for late sign up for a fee until September 30, 2007.

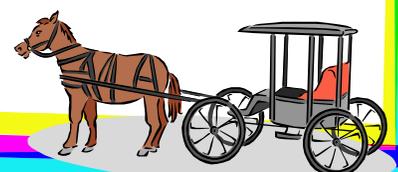
## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Pottawatomie County FSA Office**

501 State  
Westmoreland, KS 66549  
785-457-3661  
785-457-2868 (fax)

### **Wabaunsee County FSA Office**

103 E 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Alma, KS 66401  
785 765-3329  
785 765-3673 (fax)



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## AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

Natural disaster is a constant threat to America's farmers and ranchers and rural residents. The Farm Service Agency provides assistance for losses that result from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities.

### Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act).

The 2007 Act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers. The aid will cover crop losses, livestock and feed losses, emergency conservation practices and dairy losses. The Act also extends the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) and the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program.

This page serves as a clearinghouse for information about the farm programs addressed in the 2007 Act.

#### You are eligible for this new disaster aid if:

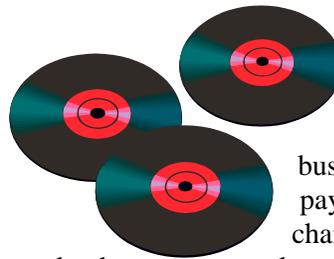
- Your county was declared a disaster area by the President or Secretary of Agriculture for disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 (livestock).
- You experienced a loss of 35 percent or greater. (crops)
- You had crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). (crops)

For more information, go to:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>



## UPDATE RECORDS



FSA asks for your help in keeping records current. When you notify our office of ANY type of change made in your business, this helps keep your payments coming. This includes changes in ownership, whether by a land sale or transfer due to inheritance. The County Register of Deeds does not notify our office when land is transferred between owners. It's your responsibility to notify us by providing a copy of the recorded deed or the property tax statement or assessment from the county, along with the social security number and mailing address of the new owner.

If your farm operator has changed or you have acquired new land to farm, let the FSA office know as soon as possible. Notify us promptly of address changes and changes in your bank account that would require a new direct deposit form.

Also, keep us updated on any changes within entity organizations such as trusts, corporations, partnerships, etc. FSA requires that current legal entity paperwork be filed annually in order to ensure the proper persons are receiving payment. Please be prepared to submit this information to our office when requested.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

If you currently have a durable power of attorney, contact FSA to obtain an FSA-211, Power of Attorney, which can be completed and used for FSA and FCIC purposes. Save your family headaches in the future because FSA may or may not be able to use the durable power of attorney you have already completed.

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