



October 2007

Reno County FSA
18 East 7th
South Hutchinson, KS 67505
(620) 669-8161- Phone
(620) 669-5496 – Fax

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee
Joe Stucky, Chairperson
Myron Miller, Member
Ed Thayer, Member
Mary Ann Strohl, Advisor

Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff:

Farm Programs

Gwen Brown – PT
Bobbie Koontz - PT
Shirley Nelson – PT
Elizabeth Welty – PT
Clara Yoder – PT
Katy Sotomayor –PT
Audrey Johns - PT
Connie Pohl – PT
Aaron Fall - CED

Farm Loans

Katie Johnson – PT
Haley Eck – PT
Sheri Grinstead - FLO
Ray Bartholomew – FLM

Internet Web Sites

USDA – www.usda.gov
FSA – www.fsa.usda.gov
NRCS – www.nrcs.usda.gov

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.



Reno County FSA News

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP **signup** is scheduled to begin **October 15, 2007**.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. For more information on this and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Both programs have a separate \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

LIP - The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, catfish, chickens, crawfish, deer, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Eligible livestock for contract growers includes poultry and swine. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

LCP - The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-901 application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage loans facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, 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 the county office staff.

NAP COVERAGE

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline. The application deadline date for the 2008 NAP coverage is.

- December 1 for all Grasses including Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.
- January 1 for Apples and Pears.
- March 15 for coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts.



FOREIGN INVESTORS RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. Agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to their local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in agricultural land.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
 - Promissory note
 - Assignment of payment
 - Joint payment authorization
 - NAP actual production history and approved yield record
 - Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
 - Financing statement
 - UCC financing statement
 - Release of information protected by the Privacy Act
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

REPORTING FARM CHANGES

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of *any* changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

