



USDA - RICE County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

Rice County FSA

1480 W HWY 56
Lyons, Kansas 67554-9209
(620) 257-5184 – Tele.
(620) 257-5653 - Fax.

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Mark Engelland, Chairperson
Mary Lou Bush, Vice-Chairperson
Howard Behnke, Regular Member
COC meeting: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Office Staff:

Rod Ackerman, Co. Executive Director
Judy Borgen, Program Technician
Tammy Clark, Program Technician
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician
Margaret Chain, Program Technician
Shelley Peverley, Program Technician
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant

2007 DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 19 – Closed for Presidents Day

March 31 – Final date to request a 2006 loan and/or LDP on wheat, oats and/or barley.

May 28 – Closed for Memorial Day

May 31 – Final date to request a 2006 loan and/or LDP on milo, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.

May 31 – Final date to report 2007 wheat, oats and barley acreages.

June 1 - Final date to sign up for the 2007 DCP program (Farm Program) to avoid a \$100 late-filed fee.

Sept 30 - Deadline to enroll (late-file) into the 2007 DCP Program to remain eligible for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments (a \$100 late-filing fee must be paid).

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Promptly inform FSA of closed financial accounts or other changes affecting direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer – EFT). FSA cannot deposit payments to accounts that no longer exist.

2007 FARM CHANGES

Changes must be reported to our office within 30 days from the occurrence. This is very important because the changes must be made in our files and revised contracts must be completed, signed and returned to our office prior to June 1, 2007. Therefore, if you have any changes please notify our office as soon as possible. It seems like we take farm changes daily.

COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

LAA #1 in Rice County held an election in December 2006, for a County Committee member. Howard Behnke was re-elected to a three-year term.

REPORT FAILED ACREAGE

While the majority of wheat acreage is in fair to good condition, farmers should still be aware of their responsibility to file a failed acreage report anytime a crop has failed. Filing should be made with our agency and your crop insurance agent (if applicable).

FEBRUARY 2007

ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS SLOW DCP ADVANCE PAYMENT PROCESS

Participants in the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program should expect a delay in receiving their advance payments this year due to the need to thoroughly review all payment eligibility forms. A recent national audit of FSA program payments for 2006 shows incomplete applications, improper signing of program forms and inadequate documentation of signature authority which could have resulted in over \$2.8 billion in FSA subsidies being considered erroneous. A closer look at the problem revealed the discrepancies to be minor in nature, but seriously compromising to the integrity of our federal farm subsidies.

The eligibility review includes determining that the proper forms are completed depending on whether you are an individual, a trust, a corporation, a partnership, or other entity. It also includes the existence of your certification of conservation compliance, and adjusted gross income. If you are signing as agent for another producer, or entity, care must be taken to ensure your signature format is proper and that the signature authority is documented on the appropriate legal forms, such as trust documents, corporate articles and by-laws, or partnership agreements. If supporting documentation is not on file with our office, approval of your 2007 contracts will be delayed until the necessary documents are provided.

Contracts were mailed to all farm operators in November 2006 on any farm that did not have a reported change for 2007. If you have not received any paperwork from our office please give us a call. If there are changes and or a reconstitution pending on the farm, realize that these changes are a very time consuming process. Those farms with changes may not be able to be handled immediately.

Advance direct payments of 22% can be requested any month through September 2007. The final direct payment will be made in October 2007. Advance counter-cyclical (CC) payments may also be requested.

Any farm record changes that could affect the farming operation need to be reported so the change can be made prior to receiving 2007 payments. Changes can include, but are not limited to, land ownership, operator, new Trusts or Estates, or share changes, need to be reported so the change can be made effective prior to enrolling into the 2007 contract year.

WE MUST HAVE ALL SIGNATURES ON THE CONTRACT (CCC-509) BEFORE THE CONTRACT CAN BE APPROVED and IN ALL CASES BY THE JUNE 1, 2007 FILING DEADLINE.

A \$100.00 fee will be assessed to any farm enrolled after the June deadline. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Acres Reports Required by MAY 31

We are now scheduling appointments for acreage certification for those crops to be harvested during 2007. As in 2006, we will be certifying entirely with GIS mapping. County Offices nationwide have been experiencing major computer problems with the WEB. The process can be very slow, so be prepared for a longer stay in the office. For those participating in the 2007 DCP program, all acreage is required to be certified (reported) in order to be eligible for DCP benefits.

The final date to certify wheat, barley and oats is **May 31, 2007**. The final date for feedgrains, fallow, CRP and all other crops is **August 1, 2007**.

Producers with 2007 NAP crops must certify acreage 15 days prior to: grazing pasture (mid April), or 15 days prior to haying the crop (alfalfa, brome/early May). **PLEASE CALL** to schedule your appointment.

2007 Reconstitutions

Tract/farm reconstitutions involving divisions & combinations are being processed at this time. The final date to apply for a 2007 reconstitution is **August 1, 2007**, but really needs to be filed sooner. Recons usually result from a change of operator or owner on farm units. Normally, farm divisions will result in base acreage being split in proportion to the resulting cropland acreage for each resulting farm. However, many times the LANDOWNER DESIGNATION method can be used to divide the base acreage as agreed to by all parties prior to an ownership transfer. This method works well with small acreages that will be devoted to residential sites, etc. Contact the FSA office if you have questions regarding this method.



NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2007

We were recently informed of an increase to the charge for completion of measurement services. This includes bin measurements or cropland verifications usually associated with late-filed acreage reports. The current charge is a minimum of \$46 for the first hour, plus \$8 for each additional half hour. This charge will be applied on a per farm basis.

COMMODITY LOANS

Producers can obtain a nine month commodity loan and take advantage of low interest rates through the Farm Service Agency. Individuals or entities requesting the loan need to meet the eligibility requirements of the program. These requirements include reporting acreage for the current year, being in conservation compliance, having a farm operating plan for payment eligibility, and having no delinquencies on any Federal non-tax debt. Eligible producers can obtain commodity loans by placing the commodity in approved farm or warehouse storage.

Producers requesting a farm stored loan can either request a measurement service or certify the loan quantity on a CCC-666. When requesting a warehouse stored loan, a warehouse receipt must be obtained and brought to the FSA Office showing storage prepaid for nine months. The payable amount of the loan will be 100% of the net quantity on the warehouse receipt.

March 31, 2007 is the final date to request a 2006 loan and/or LDP on wheat, oats and/or barley.

May 31, 2007 is the final date to request a 2006 loan and/or LDP on milo, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.

2006 Crop Loan Rates

Wheat - \$2.83 bu;	Corn - \$1.98 bu
Soybeans - \$4.90 bu;	Oats - \$1.34 bu
Gr. Sorghum - \$3.30 cwt;	Sunflowers - \$8.99 cwt

2007 Crop Loan Rates

Wheat - \$2.95 bu;	Corn - \$1.99 bu
Soybeans - \$4.89 bu;	Oats - \$1.37 bu
Gr. Sorghum - \$3.31 cwt;	Barley - \$1.85 bu
Sunflowers - \$8.32 cwt	

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.



2007 NAP INFORMATION

March 15, 2007 is the final application date for 2007 sorghum forage and other spring planted forage crops.

Passed application dates for other 2007 crops were: 9/1/2006 was the final date for NAP small grains (oats, wheat, and triticale for forage or grazing); and 12/1/2006 for 2007 alfalfa and all grasses for hay or forage.

NAP production evidence-

****Producers with losses are to notify FSA within 15 days of the loss. As with crop insurance do not destroy the crop until released by a NAP crop loss adjuster.**

****Producers who do not have a loss are required to provide production evidence to report and verify 2006 production. The producer must pay the cost of a field reporter to verify the production in the field. The production must not be fed before reporting to FSA. If production is fed and therefore not verifiable, the production is not acceptable as eligible production evidence and will not count towards the APH (actual production history). Producers are to provide bale counts and weights when reporting production of baled crops. We must have verifiable weights of the bales.**

Check First Before Clearing Land or Altering Wetlands

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. Then NRCS will determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for our programs and other USDA programs. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for our programs.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Control noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain

Consider obtaining Level 2 e-Authentication Access. This allows you to perform many functions on-line from your home computer, including filing e-LDPs, enrolling in DCP, checking program payment info, etc. Contact FSA for more information, including handouts and detailed instructions.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.