



October 2007

# Riley/Geary County News

## Riley/Geary County USDA Service Center

### Riley/Geary County FSA

3705 Miller Parkway  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
785-776-7582 (phone)  
785-539-2733 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Wendell Anderson  
David Cederberg  
Jeffrey Schurle  
Vernon Bohn  
Marjorie Wahle  
Michael Steinfort  
Leann Altwegg, Advisor

County Committee's next meeting is on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

### Staff

Tamie L Buckley, CED  
Lynne Bartholomew  
Karla Butler  
Debra Marston  
Susan Rusch  
Nicole Shumard  
Stephanie Gottfried



**The staff of the Riley/Geary FSA Office wish you all a safe and productive fall harvest.**



*Please bear with us during the move from the Junction City office to Manhattan. We anticipate a smooth transition and appreciate your patience during this time. We look forward to continuing to serve Riley and Geary County producers and getting to know those that we will be working with for the first time.*

## CONSOLIDATION OF RILEY AND GEARY COUNTY FSA OFFICES

The Farm Service Agency in Kansas has begun to implement the final proposal of the FSA restructuring plan that was developed for Kansas. As a result of the plan, Riley and Geary Counties will be consolidated and the FSA office for both counties will be located at the Riley County USDA Service Center at 3705 Miller Parkway, Manhattan, KS. Beginning October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Junction City office will be closed and Geary County producers will begin doing business at the FSA office in Manhattan or in the county that was selected through the consolidation, out-transfer process.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Riley/Geary County Committee has announced the proposed realignment of the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for the county committee election.

Due to the consolidation of the Geary Co FSA office with the Riley Co office, the LAA boundaries were realigned to ensure fair representation in the multi-county jurisdiction. The consolidated counties will have five LAAs. A map of the proposed LAAs can be viewed at the Riley County FSA Office.

**LAA-1** will consist of the entire northern portion of Riley Co., bordering Washington and Marshall counties on the north to the southern edge of section 26-7-4 on the west, and east to the Pottawatomie Co. line.

**LAA-2** will consist of the middle portion of Riley Co. from the south edge of LAA-1, to the southern edge of section 8-10-7, then east 4 miles, north 1 mile, and east to the Pottawatomie Co. line.

**LAA-3** will consist of the southern portion of Riley Co. and the northeast portion of Geary Co. from the south edge of LAA-2, south to the Geary Co. line and continuing to the southern edge of section 3-12-8, then west to the western edge of section 5-12-7, and back north to the Riley Co. line.

**LAA-4** will consist of the southeast portion of Geary Co. from the south edge of LAA-3, south to the Morris Co. line, west to the western edge of section 33-13-6, north to I-70, and back east to the LAA-3 border.

**LAA-5** will consist of the western portion of Geary Co. from the southwest corner of the county to the eastern edge of section 32-13-6, north to I-70 and including sections north of I-70 east of the Riley Co. line.

The FSA county committee will consist of one elected member from each LAA. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA, helping to deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Due to the realignment of each LAA in both counties, elections will be held in all 5 LAAs. Beginning October 29<sup>th</sup> nominations to run for the county committee election will be taken.

## DISASTER PROGRAMS

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Signup for LCP began September 10 at local FSA county offices. The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly 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 a disaster county. 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. Supporting documentation can include verifiable purchase records, vet records, bank or other loan papers, written contracts, production records, IRS records, property tax records, private insurance documents, sales records and similar documents.

Eligible disaster designations for Riley and Geary Counties for 2005 - 2007 are as follows:

- Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2005 - Drought**
- Jan 4 - 6, 2005 - Winter storm, excessive moisture**
- June 3 -16, 2005 - Hail, tornadoes, high winds, excessive moisture, lightning**
- Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2006 - Drought**

Livestock producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits.

LCP benefits may not exceed the smaller of the calculated payment rate or the value of the feed loss as determined by FSA. LCP has a payment limitation of \$80,000. Livestock producers must submit applications in their administrative county FSA office.

### CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Signup for CDP begins **October 15, 2007**. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Losses to multiple commodities may be applied for as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or were covered 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.

**Dates to Remember**

- Sept 10** - LCP Signup Begins
- Oct 8** – Holiday - Columbus Day
- Oct 15** - CDP Signup Begins
- Oct 22** – Closure of Junction City Office
- Oct 29** – Nomination Period for COC Elections Begins
- Nov 12** – Holiday - Veterans Day
- Nov 22** – Holiday - Thanksgiving Day

**WEBSITES**

- FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)
- Kansas FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)
- USDA - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)
- Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)

**FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

Seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to purchase and install eligible grain storage facilities, to permanently affix drying or handling equipment, safety equipment or to remodel existing facilities. Real estate liens are required for loans that exceed \$50,000. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required. For more information on these loans contact the Riley/Geary FSA Office.

**FSA PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Producers should be aware of payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements to be eligible for most USDA benefits. Program payments that require eligibility determinations prior to payment include the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency, Marketing Loan Gains, Environmental Quality Incentive, and Disaster Assistance Programs.

No program benefits can be afforded any producer until form CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review and supporting documentation have been provided and County Committee determinations made. The Farm Operating Plan does not need to be filed annually, however, producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation which would affect a "person," actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, or foreign person determination. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to the following:

- Contract shares that may reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or a change from share rent to cash rent, modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement.
- The size of a producers farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm that may affect the application of a cropland factor.

- The structure of a farming operation, including any change in the member's share.
- Contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment active personal labor, or active personal management.
- The acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.
- An increase in income that may affect the 3-year average for the determination of average adjusted gross income or other change that affects eligibility under the average adjusted income limitation.

By statute, entities earning program benefits subject to a payment limitation must provide the county committee the names, addresses, and ID numbers of the entities' members. The entity is also required to inform its members of the requirements to designate "permitted entities." Signature authority is required for all entities.

Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Certification (WC), must also be on file and a County Committee determination made prior to receiving benefits for most programs.

Noncompliance with the adjusted gross income provisions, either by exceeding the \$2.5 million limitation or by failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to the adjusted gross income provisions. Program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible individual or entity in any entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average adjusted gross income limitation.

If you have any questions regarding program eligibility or payment limitations, feel free to contact the Riley/Geary FSA Office at 785-776-7582.

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