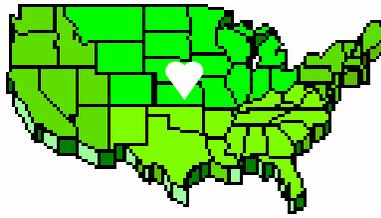




# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 School Avenue  
Smith Center, KS 66967

COUNTY COMMITTEE:  
Robert Koops CHAIRPERSON  
Mary Arment, VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Darin Hawkins, MEMBER

Cary J. Tucker  
County Executive Director

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

## FROM THE HEART OF THE USA

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

June 6, 2007

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - CRP

There will be no general CRP signup in 2007 or 2008. Continuous CRP signup is still available, with signup ongoing at all times. There are attractive signing and practice incentive payments in addition to annual payments for continuous CRP contracts. The following are CRP practices available for environmentally sensitive areas which provide increased environmental and wildlife benefits.

- Riparian Buffers – planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses to catch pollutants before they reach streams or other water bodies, available on cropland and marginal pastureland.
- Filter Strips – strips of grass used to trap sediment and other pollutants before they reach streams or lakes.
- Grassed Waterways – strips of grass seeded within cropland where water tends to concentrate or flow off a field.
- Shelterbelts and Field Windbreaks – rows of trees and shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, provide protection to livestock, and farmsteads.
- Living Snow Fences – Similar to windbreaks but to help manage snow deposits by protecting buildings, roads, and other property.
- Contour Grass Strips – establish strips of grass to reduce erosion and control runoff.
- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife – develop areas of shallow water protected by tree, and grass buffers within crop fields to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds – planting of grass buffers around crop fields to provide food and cover for quail and upland birds. **This practice will not be offered after December 31, 2007.**

Producers who currently have acreage in CRP need to be sure and follow the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for their contract. Be sure to check your CRP fields and maintain them free of noxious weeds, and volunteer trees. Be sure to plant your wildlife food plots if the plan calls for them. CRP field inspections are conducted annually to ensure program compliance. Many fields that were inspected last year will have follow up inspections completed again this year.

### Report Failed Crop Acreages to FSA

Producers need to notify FSA of any destruction of their crops that may have been affected by any natural disaster such as the recent hail storm and the crop will not be re-planted. Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be completed to maintain history for crops that will be destroyed for other than the primary intended use. Producers who have already reported planted crops such as wheat, and intend to destroy the crop, need to report to FSA the number of acres that will be destroyed and file Form CCC-576. Appraisals will not be made by FSA and the only benefit will be a protection of history credit. Producer's who have crop insurance and have already notified their crop insurance agent of any loss will still need to contact FSA to ensure planting history is protected.

### NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INFORMATION

**If you have a crop loss, and are covered under NAP insurance** - A notice of crop loss is to be filed within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent, and give FSA the opportunity to inspect the acreage. All harvested production must be verified by FSA **prior to feeding** or other disposal and all unharvested acreage must be appraised. **Loss claims on any NAP crop suffering hail damage needs to be filed now.**

**You may purchase NAP coverage for 2008 crops now.** Different crops have various sales closing dates. The earliest sales closing date is September 1, 2007 for 2008 crop year small grains for grazing or forage. Check with the FSA for all sales closing dates or any other information.

Your crop production must be reported to FSA even if you do not file a notice of loss. **Accurate and detailed crop production records are a must.**

## County Committee Election

Nominations for county committee person in Local Administrative Area (LAA)-3 area are being accepted from **June 15 through August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Logan, Pawnee, Cora, White Rock, Oak, Crystal Plains, Webster, Garfield and Lincoln Townships make up LAA 3. Robert Koops currently holds this seat.

### 2007 Loan Rates

Wheat \$2.90	Corn \$1.94
Soybeans \$4.75	Oats \$1.34
Milo \$3.18 cwt	Barley \$1.80
Sunflowers \$8.46 cwt	



## Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons (Minorities and Women)

Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches.

A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Direct farm ownership loans (FO) and farm operating loans (OL) are made by FSA to approved applicants.

While FO loans may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, erect or improve buildings, implement soil and water conservation measures, and pay closing costs; reserve funds specifically set aside for SDA persons can only be used to purchase a farm or ranch.

OL loans may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Funds also may be used to refinance debt (subject to certain restrictions) and to install or improve water systems for home use, livestock or irrigation, and other improvements.

To qualify for assistance, SDA applicants must meet all loan eligibility requirements including: being a family-size farmer, having a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations, be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms, possess the legal capacity to incur loan obligations, cannot be delinquent on a Federal debt, and they must not have caused FSA a loss by receiving debt forgiveness (certain exceptions apply). They must also have sufficient education; training, or at least 1-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last 5 years. For direct FO loans, applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for 3 years.

For more information or to complete an application, please contact the Smith County FSA Office, Farm Loan Team.

## Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

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 program covers losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who sustained losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops 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 assistance. Losses must be in excess of 35 percent of established FSA yields to be eligible. No time frame has been established as of this writing to begin taking applications for this CDP.

## **AUGUST 1 IS THE DEADLINE TO REPORT SPRING PLANTED CROPS**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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, audio tape, 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, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."