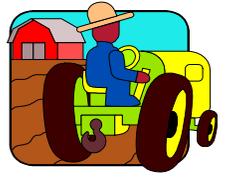




Atchison County
FSA Office
605 6th Street
Effingham, KS 66023
Phone: 913-833-5460
Fax: 913-833-5070
County Committee Meetings - 2nd Friday of each month

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



June 2008

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

RICK ABEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FSA DEADLINES APPROACH

Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans and Hay Acreage reporting: August 15th is the deadline for producers to report acreage of 2008 crops other than small grains. When reporting, you will need to identify the field, planting date, intended use of the crop, and shares. Failure to file a complete cropland acreage report to FSA by the August 15th deadline will result in the assessment of a late-filed fee. The minimum is **\$46 per farm**, so don't miss this important deadline. Acreage reporting is a requirement to remain eligible for DCP, CRP, crop disaster, commodity loans, loan deficiency payments, and crop insurance coverage. The crop insurance report deadline is July 15th. Producers should report acreage to FSA prior to reporting to crop insurance.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP): FSA has announced that the deadline to file an application for benefits under the 2006 LCP program is July 18th. LCP compensates livestock producers for grazing

and feed losses incurred during the 2006 grazing period which began on May 1, 2006 and ended on October 31, 2006. Applicants are required to certify livestock categories, numbers, and herd locations. Only livestock that were physically located on a farm administered in Atchison County on January 1, 2006 are eligible for LCP benefits through this office. The location county where the livestock grazed during the 2006 grazing period is also critical in determining eligibility.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): FSA has announced that the deadline to file an application for benefits under the 2005, 2006 or 2007 LIP program is July 18th. LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock death losses associated with county disaster declarations. Death losses during this period does not guarantee a payment. Documentation that death loss is specifically associated with a county disaster declaration is necessary for benefits determination.

CRITICAL USE OF CRP ACREAGE

USDA has recently announced the release of certain acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for haying or grazing for 2008 only. Existing contract acreage under practice CP1, CP2 and CP10, consisting of 4,684 acres of Atchison County brome and native grass are eligible for critical use. There is a \$75 enrollment fee per contract. All CRP contract signatories are required to sign a critical use request form, and a revised conservation plan developed by NRCS prior to release. Haying or grazing cannot occur prior to the end of the primary nesting season (July 15th). You cannot hay more than 50% of any CRP field and there are limitations on haying in proximity to water bodies. You can graze up to 75% of each field at a 100% stock rate as determined by NRCS, or graze 100% of the CRP field at 75% of the NRCS determined stocking rate. Haying or grazing privileges can be leased to another producer, and hay can be sold with no restrictions. There is no reduction applied to the CRP annual rental payments under critical use provisions. For more information, contact FSA.

QUALITY LOSS PAYMENTS FOR CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Many producers recently qualified for quantity loss benefits under the 2005-2007 CDP program. Losses were documented through RMA (crop insurance) information downloaded to the FSA office. A new provision to the CDP program allows benefits to be paid for insured crops that incurred quality losses as a result of natural disaster conditions. Producers who suffered quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007, and filed a quantity loss application, may qualify for an additional disaster benefit. In order to apply, you must provide documentation of grading factors such as scale tickets, settlement sheets, state grade determinations, etc. Eligibility is determined on a per load basis and you must have suffered at least a 25% monetary loss when compared to the county loan rate for the crop. Applications are currently being accepted. Contact FSA for more information.



PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS



June 15th marks the beginning of the nomination period for county committee elections to be held later this year. The election winner will take office on January 1, 2009 for a 3-year term. Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2008. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available at the county office, or on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections. A public meeting will be held in conjunction with a regular Atchison County Committee meeting at the Atchison County USDA Service Center at 11:00 am on Friday, July 11th. The Service Center is located at 605 6th Street in Effingham, Kansas. The general public is invited to attend to learn about the election process.

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as practical to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased, or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes of shares, changes of operator or tenant, etc.

2008 FARM BILL UPDATE

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The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22nd, 2008. The Act creates an agricultural disaster relief trust fund to meet financial obligations of 5 new disaster assistance programs which include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (EALHF). The Act also continues the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) from 2008 through 2012, and authorizes an Average Crop Revenue Election Program for 2009 through 2012, in addition to various credit and conservation programs. Federal regulations and program policies and procedures are being drafted and developed and will be finalized over the next several months. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available to FSA.

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REMINDERS:

- The FSA Office will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- Deadline to report planted acreage of corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum is August 1st.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try www.fsa.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or familial status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.