June 2008

Clay County FSA News

New Employee!!!

On April 28, 2008, we welcomed Jericho Hammond as our newest staff member due to the retirement of Reta Savener. Jericho came to us from the Clay Center Farmway Office and has a great understanding of the farming operations in Clay County.

CRP Critical Feed Use

Certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been authorized to be available for hay and grazing after July 15, 2008. Some of the eligible land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. This land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use however a $75 fee will be charged to process the required contract modification. All hay or livestock must be removed as required by the conservation plan or no later than November 10, 2008. Please call the office for more information regarding the CRP Critical Feed Use.

New Farm Bill

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. We have little knowledge of all of the changes to come but it looks like most of the changes will become effective the 2009 crop year. We will let you know as soon as we have more information and are able to start sign-up. Thank you for your patience as we are all learning the new farm bill.

Under the new farm bill, the 2008 Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) Rates have been set. The MAL provisions are similar to those under the previous farm bill.

Listed below are the rates for Clay County:

- Corn $1.94/bu
- Grain Sorghum $3.32/cwt
- Oats $1.32/bu
- Soybeans $4.88/bu
- HRW Wheat $3.00/bu
Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Our office is in the process of wrapping up the first component of the 2005-2007 CDP which paid producers based on quantity losses, which were based off of downloaded insurance information. We are starting to work on the second component of the CDP, which are quality losses. If you believe that you might have suffered a quality loss in the years 2005-2007, please call the office to discuss the program and what information you will need to provide to us so that we can process an application.

County Committee Elections

For those producers who are located in Local Administrative Area (LAA)-1 it is County Committee nomination time again. This position is currently held by William Lenhart and he is eligible to be re-elected. The nomination period begins June 15, 2008 and nomination forms can be picked up at our office. August 1, 2008 is the last day to file nomination forms.

- Townships included in LAA-1 are Mulberry, Sherman, Garfield, Goshen, Hayes and Highland.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The interest rate changes each month. The June interest rate is 3.375 percent.

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. All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% 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 more details, please contact us.