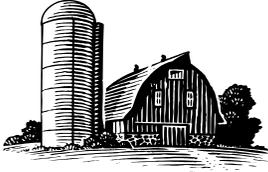




APRIL 2008

# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5431 phone  
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Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

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

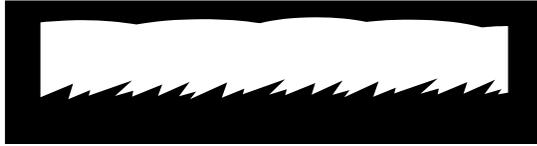
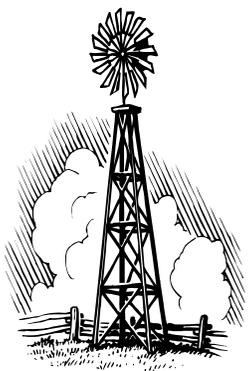
**County Committee:**  
Darlene Ferguson, Chair  
Ken Foster, Vice Chair  
David Dhooghe, Member

County Committee meets  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each  
month

**Office Staff:**  
Kitra Cooper, CED  
Annetta Henry, PT  
Sally McKinzie, PT  
Dawn Thompson, PT

**Field Staff:**  
Leon Pearce  
Trey Thompson

**Food for Thought:**  
Anyone who stops  
learning is old,  
whether at twenty or  
eighty. Anyone who  
keeps learning stays  
young. The greatest  
thing in life is to keep  
your mind young.  
----Henry Ford



## NEW CONTINUOUS CRP PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project is to improve populations of bobwhite quail, ringneck pheasant, greater prairie chicken, and other grassland associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. This SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP consisting of diverse native grass and forb cover. Quail, pheasant and other grassland birds are species that will benefit from SAFE enrollments. Priority will be given to using SAFE to complement local efforts, and project coordinators expect upland birds should respond within the first year of planting. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will also provide water quality and reduce soil erosion.

To be eligible, land must be located anywhere in Kansas, with priority for land located in Kansas CRP Conservation Priority Areas 2, 5 and 8. Labette County is not in a priority area. In addition, land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems may be also be eligible.

Rental rates are based on three predominate soils. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county.

A one-time upfront signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts of 10 years or more will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved. A one-time practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met. FSA will also pay cost-share payments up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety. Mid-contract management requirements will apply to CP38E enrollments, with activities s designed in the conservation plan to maximize the benefits for wildlife throughout the CRP contract period.

Signup for CP38E begins the later of March 17, 2008, or if/when Congress reauthorizes the continuation of CRP at local FSA county offices and runs continuously until the acreage goal of 30,100 is met. A fact sheet with map of priority areas may be obtained at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks).

**Stay actively informed about the most current Farm Bill proposals, Senate hearings and other information concerning American agriculture at [www.agriculture.senate.gov](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov) or [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)**

## WHEAT ACREAGE MUST BE REPORTED BY MAY 31

Crop acreage reports are a requirement of both the DCP and CRP programs. Although the current Farm Bill, and thus the DCP program, officially expired in 2007 and the House and Senate are trying to hammer out a new Farm Bill, you still need to report your planted wheat, oats, and barley acreage by May 31. CRP and all other crops must be reported by August 1.

Based on last year's planting history, only about 15% of the wheat planted in the county has been reported. You will need to know the locations and planting dates of any crops planted. Please call the office now to make your appointment to complete this. Walk-ins may be taken, but appointments are given first priority.

## LIVESTOCK PREMISES REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT FSA OFFICES

Animal and premises ID is a controversial subject among livestock producers. The United States has the safest food supply in the world, but Animal ID is needed to keep it that way. And a guaranteed safe food supply should increase livestock exports, which, as we all know, supports livestock prices. Premise registration is the first step through the KanID System to implement the National Animal ID System (NAIS), which is a system created to help protect animal agriculture by tracking the movements of animals in commerce and track potentially damaging animal disease outbreaks. FSA, in partnership with Kansas Animal Health Dept. (KAHD), can register your livestock premises at your local FSA office. This process is completed online and takes a short amount of time to complete. Contact our office for more information or obtain more info online at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.



**Important Dates**

Apr 15	CRP Nesting Season Begins
May 28	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Deadline to report 2008 planted small grains
May 31	Deadline for 2007 feed grain Marketing Assistance Loans
Jul 4	Office closed for Independence Day
Jul 15	CRP Nesting Season Ends
Aug 1	Deadline to report CRP, grass, and 2008 planted feed grains
Aug 1	COC nominations must be returned

**CROP DISASTER AND LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAMS STILL AVAILABLE**

If you suffered a drought-related pasture or crop loss in 2005, 2006, or 2007, you may be eligible for these disaster programs. Although an application deadline has not yet been announced, please don't hesitate to contact the office for more information and to make an appointment.

LCP losses are based on 2005 and 2006 federal disaster designation periods. Producers will qualify for one of four disaster periods, based on the number of cattle they owned on the designation's start date. Eligible beef cattle are adults and non-adults over 500 lbs. The per head payment is \$10.66 for adult beef cattle and \$8.00 for non-adult beef cattle over 500 lbs. Other eligible livestock include buffalo, sheep, goats, horses used strictly in a livestock operation, and hogs NOT in a confined operation. Payments received in 2006 for the Livestock Assistance Grant Program through the Kansas Dept. of Ag will be deducted from any 2006 LCP payments. Producers will need to provide documentation to FSA of the number and type of livestock owned for disaster designation period selected, the physical locations of pastures for that time period and the number of cattle on each pasture, a grazing loss percent for each pasture, documentation of pasture cash lease agreements, and documentation of expenses for any additional feed produced or purchased during the disaster period.

CDP is available only to producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance Coverage or NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) coverage through FSA. Any uninsured crops are NOT eligible for this disaster aid. We have received reports from USDA Risk Management Agency that document all crop losses for 2005, 2006, and 2007. However, producers need to provide some additional information and sign an application for each unit. Quality loss payments are also a part of this program, but details on quality loss procedure, eligibility and payments will be out this summer.

**WANT TO MODERNIZE YOUR METHODS?**

USDA has made great strides recently in becoming more accessible and customer-friendly. The website has been revamped and if you have Internet access, you can now complete some FSA business online from the comfort of your home PC. You could fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms at home, or even e-file (electronically sign and transmit) some forms directly to the county office, saving time and expense. You may also access your financial and payment histories online, anytime you choose. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must obtain a Level 2 eAuth user name and password. To sign up in person, visit the county office and complete form AD-2016. The staff will verify your identity and enter your information into the system. Or simply go to [www.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov) for more information!

**HAVE YOU MADE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR FARMING OPERATION?**

Many farming changes are made every year. If you have sold or bought land, changed the way you do business (formed or changed a trust, corporation, etc.), assumed operatorship of a farm for 2008, or any other type of farm business change, please notify us now. The best time to correct farm records is before a new program signup begins. This allows you to receive correct information and payments and can prevent problems down the road. **The only way we know a change has been made is if YOU notify US.**

We'd also like to remind everyone of the importance of addressing any current FSA program contracts and planted crops when selling land. FSA contracts are binding and penalties can occur when land is sold and the new owner does not choose to succeed or sign the contract. Discuss any planted crops or FSA programs with the buyer and record your joint agreement in the sales contract. If you have any questions concerning your programs or the possible consequences, please contact our office.

**2007 LOAN RATES**

Below are the 2007 commodity loan rates for Labette County. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

- Wheat—\$2.95/bushel
- Barley—\$1.75/ bushel
- Oats—\$1.37/bushel
- Corn—\$2.08/bushel
- Soybeans--\$4.97/bushel
- Grain Sorghum--\$3.49/cwt
- Sunflowers--\$7.81/cwt
- Canola--\$7.90/cwt

Rates can also be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov). Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."



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