

APRIL 2008

# Neosho County News



**Neosho County  
USDA Service Center**

**Neosho County FSA**  
124 W. State Ste. 2  
Erie, KS 66733  
620-244-3491 (phone)  
620-244-3582 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

**County Committee**  
Teresa Bogner  
Donald Taylor  
Donald Vitt

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at  
9:00 a.m.

**Staff**  
Teresa Cox, PT  
Marcia Fickel, PT  
Renae Lucas, PT  
Charlotte LaRue, TPT  
Donna Sifers, CED



**FSA KIDS**

*Did you know.....*

It takes about 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese. The average cow produces 2,100 pounds of milk in a month or 210 pounds of cheese. By the way, that same cow can produce about 46,000 glasses of milk in a year. For more fun facts and activities, visit FSA KIDS website at:  
<http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids/>

**Snack Boats**



- 1 (6 inch) flour tortilla
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 banana

Lay tortilla flat. Spread peanut butter and honey on tortilla. Place banana in the middle and sprinkle in the raisins. Wrap and serve.

DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Dairy producers that commercially marketed milk in the U.S. between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 and suffered production losses attributed to a declared natural disaster may be eligible for payments under DDAP-III. Producers must provide proof of the average number of cows in the dairy herd and annual milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the dairy operation during years of the base period of 2003 and 2004 calendar years. To determine the total pounds of eligible losses, producers must also provide the dairy herd numbers and production marketed for the applicable disaster years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Adequate proof of production is required from the dairy operation's milk handler or marketing cooperative. Payments are based on the annual average Mailbox milk price for the Marketing Order for the applicable State for the applicable disaster year. Signup for DDAP-III ends on May 5, 2008, which gives dairy producers a limited time to apply for benefits under this program. Dairy producers interested in applying for the DDAP-III program should contact the FSA office.

BEGINNING FARMER FARM OWNERSHIP PROGRAM (10-40-50)

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership Loans are available to help obtain financing for the purchase of a farm. The applicant must put down 10 percent. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible. The FSA loan rate will be locked in for the full 15 years, and currently the rate is 4.0 percent.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAM

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) signup opened September 10, 2007. LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered grazing or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Eligible livestock include most livestock in Neosho county that are used as part of a farming operation. Contact the FSA office for additional information and program requirements. Program ending dates have not yet been announced.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

S.A.F.E.

CRP State Acres for wildlife Enhancement

Owners and operators of cropland in designated geographic areas may enroll eligible land in a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation practice titled State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38.

USDA's national goal is to restore or enhance 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat through SAFE. USDA has approved SAFE proposals to address state and regional high-priority wildlife objectives. SAFE practices provide the flexibility to meet the specific needs of high-value wildlife species in a participating state or region.

In Kansas, the goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project is to improve populations of bobwhite quail and other grassland associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. The SAFE effort will establish and maintain 30,100 acres in CRP consisting of diverse native grass and forbs cover. Quail, pheasant and other grassland birds are species that will benefit from SAFE enrollments. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will also provide water quality benefits and reduce soil erosion.

Eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001. The land must be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. You may find more information about SAFE online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, or contact your local FSA office.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP signup for quantity loss began October 15, 2007. 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 CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in only one year. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Many producers have applied for 2007 wheat only. Those producers need to come back in and apply for the rest of the crops for 2007. Contact the office for additional information.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.



**CRP MAINTENANCE**

All Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are required to maintain the CRP practices. This means all practices that did not have trees or shrubs planted in them according to a CRP Plan of Operations; trees and shrubs must be controlled by whatever means will accomplish the control. Cutting, spraying and burning are all allowed. However, please check with FSA personnel before burning to make sure it will not impact other CRP issues. **Always refer to your Plan of Operations to determine what operations are required and when.**

Over the past several years intense reviews have been completed and it was apparent some CRP fields were not being properly maintained. Not completing the required maintenance measures will cause non-compliance and monetary penalties to be assessed.

Trees and shrubs on CRP are not the only examples of violations. Non-control of noxious weeds such as musk thistle, Johnson grass, and Sericea lespedeza among others, is also a violation. Some other examples of violations are: permanent roads or trails, trash and brush disposal areas, parking or storage of junked machinery and autos, livestock hay or feed storage, buildings or houses, or mowing for cosmetic purposes.

**KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE**

FSA asks for your help in keeping records current. This includes changes in ownership, whether by a land sale or transfer due to inheritance. It is your responsibility to notify us by providing a copy of the recorded deed, sales contract or the property tax statement. Also needed is the social security number and mailing address of the new owner.

It is important that our office be timely notified of deceased producers. FSA is being scrutinized for issuing payments in such cases. As soon as a death is reported, we can begin to correct our records to ensure payments are issued correctly.

If your farm operator has changed or you have acquired new land to farm, you need to notify the FSA office as soon as possible.

Notify us promptly of address changes and changes in your bank account that would require a new direct de-posit form.

Also, please notify the FSA office on any changes within entity organizations such as trusts, corporations, partnerships, etc. FSA requires that current legal entity paperwork be filed with our office to ensure proper signature authority.

**FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS**

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. 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. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loans in excess of \$50,000 require a real estate lien. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

**USDA WORKS TO PROTECT PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII)**

USDA has formally launched a Department-wide campaign to make certain that producers' "Personally Identifiable Information" or PII, is being protected. The PII generally refers to information which is maintained by a USDA agency about an individual, including USDA customers and USDA employees. Information may include details of financial transactions between a customer and the Department; such unique information as a Social Security number and a date or place of birth which could be used to trace an individual's identity; and other personal information, including medical or criminal history, which is linkable to a particular individual.

As part of USDA's official policy on social security numbers, USDA will collect, use, maintain, and/or disseminate Social Security numbers only when required by statute or when specifically authorized to do so. USDA agencies will not use the number as an identity number. Agencies must mask or encrypt Social Security numbers so that they cannot be viewed on computer screens, reports, or other products. Agencies will not use Social Security numbers to access customer records.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
TBA	Crop Disaster Program (CDP)
TBA	Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)
May 5, 2008	Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III)
June 2, 2008	Small Grain Reporting Deadline
Aug. 1, 2008	Report of all farm changes as they happen but no later than -
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
May 31, 2008	2007 coarse grain commodity loan deadline

**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)

**FSA GUARANTEED LOANS**

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g. banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions), with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Operating purposes. More information regarding FSA guaranteed loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

