



May 2008

Saline County News

WHEAT AND SMALL GRAIN CERTIFICATION DEADLINE IS NEAR

CERTIFY THAT WHEAT – TODAY!

Even though we don't have a farm bill – the deadline to certify your wheat and other small grains is just around the corner. **JUNE 2nd is the last day** you can certify your crops without being charged a late fee. The late fee is begins at \$46 dollars per Farm. Not knowing what requirements a new farm bill will have and looking at \$46 dollars or more per farm – make sure you call in and schedule your certification appointment TODAY.

Saline County is Eligible for Livestock Disaster Programs

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) - provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed or pasture losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters. **Most producers in Saline County are eligible for 2005 and 2006.**

- Livestock producers will need to be able to provide documentation on the number of head they owned at the beginning of the disaster period. (Example – Jan, 1 2005 or Jan, 1 2006)
- Lease agreements or written acknowledgement of lease for pastures must also be provided
- Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes.
- Call to make an appointment!**

There are 2 programs authorized under the Disaster Bill. Counties have to have been designated a disaster county in order to be eligible during the time period of January 1, 2005 through 2007.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – provides for assistance to eligible livestock producers for deaths directly related to a natural disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Applications for the crop disaster program have been slowing down. **If you haven't applied yet – I would suggest you do so soon.** An ending date has not yet been established but could be coming. Crop losses for insured producers for 2005, 2006 and 2007 crop years are eligible. We have seen some information coming through on the Quality Loss portion of the disaster program. Training should be coming soon and maybe beneficial to those who have applied for the Disaster Program.

CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's important to keep the county office up-to-date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure uninterrupted service, effective for the next year, unless the payments are re-funded.

SELLING OR BUYING CRP REQUIRES EXTRA ATTENTION

If you are buying or selling CRP make sure you visit your FSA office frequently during the process! CRP contracts have to have a succession in interest from the new owners within 60 days of the sales closing date or the previous owner will have to refund all payments made to them from the contract. This information is in the CRP-1 appendix you receive at the time of enrollment. Failure on the part of the buyer to succeed to the contract will result in the previous owner owing the government a substantial amount of money.

Saline County
USDA Service Center

Saline County FSA
1410 E Iron Ave, Ste 12
Salina KS 67401-3285
785-825-8269 (phone)
785-825-1533 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

County Committee
Jane MacDonald
Mike Jensen
Leslie Berndt

County Committee meets
1st Thursday of the Month at
9:00 a.m.

Farm Program Staff
David J Sweany, CED
Pat Burt
Jody Turner
Jeanine White
Deb Cornelius

Farm Loan Program Staff
Bill Mahanay, FLM
Rick Bush, FLO
Kim Fine
Linda Hughes
Tosha Schlichenmayer

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
Kansas FSA -
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
USDA - www.usda.gov
Obtain a Level 2 e-
Authentication Account -
www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

NEW FARM BILL???

At this time there is no farm bill. There is some news that they are close to having something completed. It sounds like there will be changes – which means we will be doing some meetings on what that means to you. It may be a real push to get everyone signed up with the delay they have had in putting this together. Make sure you make time to come to the meetings when announced so you will be able to make the right choice for your operation.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, supplies and carryover operating expenses. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

FSA is currently offering direct real estate loans with fixed interest rates ranging from 4.00% to 5.00%; direct operating loans (to finance machinery, equipment, livestock, production expenses, etc.) with a fixed interest rate of 3.125% and emergency loans are available for specific disaster designations in the area.

The guaranteed interest assistance program will allow FSA to pay 4.00% of an eligible customer's interest expense on guaranteed operating loans for a period of 5 years.

If you are having trouble getting commercial credit at affordable rates and terms, please contact the Farm Loan Program personnel in the Salina County Office about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.



Dates to Remember

June 2	Taking Certifications by Appt
????	No Farm Bill to date – stay tuned for updates
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
	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

FSA Youth Loans

FSA makes loans of up to \$5,000 to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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.