



District 7 - Barber - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray - Hodgeman - Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Stafford

October 2008

STATE WIDE TRAINING ON NEW FARM BILL

All Kansas FSA farm program employees will be receiving Farm Bill Training on October 21-24, 2008. The County FSA offices will be staffed with either temporary employees or County Committee members. Payments will not be issued during this period. Issues that arise during this time will be promptly addressed by staff when they return to the office on October 27, 2008. We are asking producers to plan their FSA business with this in mind. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000. The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINES-CHANGES

The original September 1 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008 to obtain coverage for 2009 Wheat, Barley, Rye, Triticale, Canola, and Nursery Crops. December 1 is also the final date to purchase NAP coverage for 2009 Alfalfa, all Grasses, and Oats. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55% of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer in all counties.

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.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ballots will be mailed to those voters in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) that will be conducting an election in 2009. If you are an eligible voter in a LAA conducting an election this year please take time to vote. **Ballots must be returned to the County Office by December 1, 2008.**

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

Youth 10 to 20 years old can gain valuable business experience by obtaining a Rural Youth Loan to establish and operate income producing projects in conjunction with participation in 4-H, FFA, or a similar club. Contact the USDA Farm Service Agency at the USDA Service Center for more details.

REPORT CHANGES TIMELY

The County Offices are beginning work on the 2009 Fiscal and Crop Year. Owners and/or operators need to report any changes in ownership or land operation to the local FSA office. For land ownership changes, please provide either a sales contract or deed.





NEW FOR 2008 and FUTURE YEARS

A new ongoing disaster program has been announced with the 2008 Farm Bill. There are 5 different programs included. They are: 1. Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program - or SURE for short - which covers production and quality losses to crops. 2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) covers livestock grazing losses. 3. Tree Assistance Program (TAP) 4. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF) 5. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) covers livestock death losses due to an eligible disaster.

To be eligible for the first four programs, a producer must have all reported crops on his farms intended for harvest either covered by at least a CAT policy or a NAP policy. The SURE Program will be available to eligible producers on:

- farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties. Disaster counties are counties included in the geographic area covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration by the Secretary for production losses.
- any farm in which, during the calendar year, the total loss of production of the farm because of weather is greater than 50 percent of the normal production of the farm.

For SURE, a "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

SURE Program payments will be issued to an eligible producer in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee and total farm revenue. **Total Farm Revenue minus Disaster Assistance Program Guarantee = Payment 60 percent of Difference**

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.

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.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means of 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) 729-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CRP USE PROVISIONS

CRP participants are being reminded of their responsibility for allowed uses on CRP.

With the possible wind farm construction, CRP participants within the defined boundary will be required to notify the FSA of the installation of wind turbines prior to construction on CRP contract acres. The County Committee will review each request to allow the construction of up to 5 acres of turbines on a contract. All access roads and substations must be removed from the CRP contract. Participants within the wind farm boundary are encouraged to contact the FSA office for more information.

Unauthorized mowing of CRP includes mowing hunting lanes, mowing around the edges of irrigated circles, and mowing for cosmetic purposes. Before mowing any established CRP acreage, check with FSA or NRCS to be sure it is an allowed practice.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The FSA County Offices located in District 7 will be holding information meetings concerning the new Farm Bill Provisions. These will be conducted following the October statewide training. Contact your local FSA Office for meeting dates and times.

2008 FINAL DIRECT PAYMENTS

Producers who enrolled in the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and who reported cropland use acres are eligible for the 2008 final direct payments for covered commodities. These payments will be issued in early October. The rates for the most common commodities are:

Wheat	\$0.52 per bushel
Corn	\$0.28 per bushel
Grain Sorghum	\$0.35 per bushel
Barley	\$0.24 per bushel
Oats	\$0.024 per bushel
Soybeans	\$0.44 per bushel
Upland Cotton	\$0.0667 per pound