



USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



Leavenworth-Wyandotte
County FSA Office
2050 Spruce St
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048
913-682-1085
Fax 913-682-7886

May 2007
Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Atchison County
FSA Office
605 6th Street
Effingham, KS 66023
913-833-5460
Fax 913-833-5070

RICK ABEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

County Committee Meetings: Leavenworth-Wyandotte – 2nd Wednesday of each month; Atchison – 2nd Friday of each month

FSA OFFICE CONSOLIDATION PLAN SUBMITTED

We were recently notified that the Kansas plan for consolidation of FSA offices was submitted to Washington for review and approval. A change to the original plan will de-combine the Atchison County and Leavenworth-Wyandotte County operations, and combine the Leavenworth-Wyandotte office with the Jefferson County office at Oskaloosa. The end result will be the closing of the Leavenworth-Wyandotte office at Leavenworth. The Atchison County office will remain in Effingham, and will be considered a stand alone operation. If the consolidation plan is approved, landowners and operators in Leavenworth-Wyandotte will receive a letter explaining the scope of the consolidation plan, and give producers 60 days to elect where they want their farm records sent. The county office options available to you are Jefferson (Oskaloosa), Platte (Platte City), Douglas (Lawrence), or Atchison (Effingham). If you do not make an election, your records will automatically be sent to the Oskaloosa office. We are not certain on the timeline for closure of the Leavenworth office, but are asking Leavenworth-Wyandotte producers to contact the office at your earliest convenience to report wheat or oats acreage, and complete DCP enrollment if you have not already done so. Atchison County producers should also be contacting the FSA office if enrollment or wheat reporting has not been done.

FSA DEADLINES APPROACH

2006 Commodity Loan and LDP requests: May 31 is the deadline to request commodity loan or loan deficiency payment on 2006 crop corn, soybeans and grain sorghum. If you had a page 1 of form CCC-633EZ on file prior to harvest or selling of these 2006 crops, you may have earned an LDP during the short period of time last fall when LDPs were in effect. You must provide production evidence in the form of scale tickets, settlement sheets, or load summaries, and file page 2 of the CCC-633EZ form by May 31 to determine the LDP amount.

Wheat and Oats acreage reporting: May 31 is the deadline for producers to report acreage of 2007 wheat, oats and any other small grains that are planted in the county. When reporting, you will need to identify the field, planting date, intended use of the crop, and shares. We will assume all wheat is hard red winter unless reported otherwise. Late-filing fees have gone up. The minimum is \$46 per farm, so don't miss this important deadline.

DCP Signup Extended: The signup period for enrollment in the 2007 direct and counter cyclical program has been extended to August 3rd. All contract signatures must be obtained and returned to the FSA office by this deadline to be considered timely filed. The late-filed period will run from August 3rd through September 30th. There is a \$100 per farm fee charged for each late-filed contract provided during this period. Advance payments on the direct portion of the DCP benefit are 22% of the total direct earnings.

FAILED WHEAT ACRES

Have you decided what to do with that damaged wheat crop? If you are planning to dispose of it and plant another crop in it's place, you may want to check with our office first. There are a lot of questions about what benefit reporting failed wheat to FSA might provide. We're not sure what the new farm bill will provide, and we're not sure if there will be a Disaster Program. Filing a failed acreage application (CCC-576) would provide your farm with wheat planted history, if approved. If you reported your wheat to FSA already, and already tore it up, you can still file a late-filed failed wheat application through May 31st. If you have not reported the wheat to FSA, and already tore it up, you probably have fewer options available to you. If you have crop insurance, you may already be covered for disaster program purposes, but not history credit. Check with FSA if you have questions.



NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

June 15th marks the beginning of the nomination period for county committee elections to be held later this year. The election winner will take office on January 1, 2008 for a 3-year term. Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2007. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available at the county office, or on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections. For more information, contact our office.

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as practical to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased, or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes of shares, changes of operator or tenant, etc.

CRP ACREAGE MAINTENANCE

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the cover of all CRP acreage in accordance with the written conservation plan of operations. In most all cases, this means that there must be a good stand of the introduced grass. Weeds and noxious weeds must not be allowed to produce seed, and brush/trees must be prevented from establishing in the CRP fields. Keep in mind that the primary nesting season for birds began on April 15th, and will run through July 15th. Corrective action needed after establishment of grass should not take place within the nesting period unless written authorization is provided by this office.

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. For more information call 913-833-5460, extension 25 or 26.

Loans for Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. For more info call 913-833-5460, ext. 25 or 26.



- The FSA Office will be closed on May 28th in observance of Memorial Day and on July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs and farm loans, try www.fsa.usda.gov.

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