

# BUTLER COUNTY FSA

JUNE 2007

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## County Committee

Jeff Varner

Michael Murphy

T A Wiebe

## COC Advisor

Christine Harder

*COC meetings held monthly on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month*

## County Executive Director

Velma Larimer

## **DCP Enrollment Deadline Extended To August 3, 2007**

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007.

The extension is due to issues involving the performance of the Farm Service Agency's web-based computer system. The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 28, 2007.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> is also the final day to return all signatures to the DCP contract without being assessed a late fee.**

## **Acreage Reporting**

Acreage reports are required to remain eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. The deadline to certify small grains was May 31. August 1 is the final date to timely report all other crops.

Owners are required to sign the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage report. Please watch for these in the mail.

**Low interest** FSA farm loans are available, while funds last, at interest rates between 3.75% and 5.375%. Use the funds to refinance debt, purchase land, equipment and livestock, or for help with annual operating expenses with no money down. Special opportunities are also available for beginning farmers. If interested, please contact Gary Nuss or Nick Bergkamp at 620-221-2060.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for commodities. 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. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

## MAINTENANCE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) COVER

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the cover of all CRP acreage in accordance with their Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Weeds and noxious weeds must not be allowed to produce seed. Brush and trees must be controlled on the CRP. The CRP acres can't be used to store machinery, vehicles, bales, etc. Unauthorized haying or grazing is not permitted. Penalties for these violations include a refund of all previous rental payments, cost shares, incentive payments, interest, and liquidated damages. Corrective action must not be taken during primary nesting season which began April 15 and continues through July 15.

### Banking Changes?

Please remember to report changes in banks and/or account changes to the

**COC ELECTION**

The election for a County Committee (COC) member this year will be for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. LAA #3 is in the southern part of Butler County which includes the following townships: Bruno, Augusta, Spring, Little Walnut, Glencoe, Pleasant, Walnut, Bloomington, Logan, Hickory, Richland, Douglas, Rock Creek, Clay, and Union. Nomination forms for this position will be accepted until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The nominee must meet certain requirements such as be willing to serve, eligible to vote, and reside in LAA #3. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007.

## CP33 Acres Available

Kansas received an additional allocation of 35,000 acres for Habitat Buffers for Northern Bobwhite Quail under the Conservation Reserve Program practice CP33. Kansas currently has over 27,500 habitat buffers enrolled.

The purpose of CP33 is to provide food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland acres. Cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. Buffer species may include native warm-season grass, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub plantings, as specified in the participant's approved conservation plan. This practice qualifies for incentive payments.

Eligible land may be enrolled in CP33 anytime under the continuous CRP. However, signup for the practice will end December 31, 2007 or when the allocated acres are enrolled, whichever comes first. When the entire allocation is enrolled, Kansas will have 62,500 acres in habitat buffers.

A fact sheet on CRP: Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative is available at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), then click on Fact Sheets on the right side of the screen. Or contact the Farm Service Agency at your local USDA Service Center.

**Coming Soon:**

**Agricultural Assistance**

## Act of 2007

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act). The 2007 Act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers.

Specifically, the 2007 Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP). The 2007 Act also extends the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP). Additionally, the 2007 Act extends the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program through September 2007.

## Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

**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.**

**USDA will announce and conduct sign-up for CDP as soon as possible.**

### For More Information:

*More information about FSA's disaster programs is available on the agency's Web site;*

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov> click on Find FSA Fact sheets and search under the topic Disaster Assistance.

## FOREIGN INVESTORS 90-DAY REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**June 15** Nominations for COC Elections begin

**July 4** Office Closed

**August 1** Deadline to certify spring seeded crops and CRP.

**August 1** Final date to submit nominations for COC Election

**August 1** Final date to request a farm reconstitution

**August 3** Final date to sign up for DCP and return all signatures to the DCP contract, without paying a late fee

**Sept. 30** Final date for 2007 DCP contract revisions

**October** Final 2007 DCP Direct payments issued

### **On-Going**

Continuous CRP, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans

## Teamwork

FSA employees from across the state rolled up their sleeves, donated time, traveled long distances for some, and assisted fellow employees and our farm customers in the huge job of clean-up and recovery after the massive storms that hit Greensburg and a number of other counties. Some employees helped with cleanup of the Kiowa County FSA Office, located in Greensburg, while other employees assisted producers in the cleanup of debris from farm fields.



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*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



FSA employees cleaning the Kiowa County FSA Office in Greensburg