

COFFEY COUNTY FSA AG REPORT

Coffey County FSA Office

313 Cross Street, Ste. 1
Burlington, KS 66839
Phone: (620) 364-2313
Fax: (620) 364-3149
Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



County Committee Members

Warren Graham, Chairperson
Daryl Knight, Vice Chairperson
Wallace Birk, Member
Bonnie Davies, COC Advisor

The Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month

Office Staff

Doug Peine, CED

Kim Specht, LPT

Vicki Fry, PT

Vickie Wolford, PT

Megan Wilson, PT

Are we a Disaster County or Not?

Several of you have asked this question. The answer is NO. We have not been declared a disaster county at this time. The County Emergency Board (CEB) has submitted a Damage Assessment Report (DAR) to a higher viewing authority for consideration to be declared a Disaster County.

What does this mean? Although Coffey County has not been declared a disaster area, we are a contiguous county to a disaster area. This means you may be eligible for **emergency loans**. These loans are available to cover physical and/or production losses. Please be advised that even if we are declared a disaster county, these emergency loans will more than likely be all the financial assistance we will be able to provide you because Congress would have to approve an increase to the budget for additional financial support.

Those farmers and ranchers needing agricultural credit as a result of drought, which occurred 01/01/2006 and continuing, and who think they are eligible for FSA assistance, can obtain additional information and find out how to apply by contacting our FSA Office.

Signature Requirements

Don't risk losing your FSA benefits because your contract **was not** properly signed! Please ensure that we have your proper signature authorization on file. FSA Power-of-Attorney rules: **proper form** is the FSA-211. **Witnessed signature:** the grantor's signature on the FSA-211 must be acknowledged by a Notary Public or witnessed by a FSA employee. Grantors may **authorize** the attorney-in-fact to act on their behalf for all or specific FSA or CCC programs, permissible transactions, crop insurance transactions, and farms. **Prohibited transactions:**

FSA-211 does not allow the attorney-in-fact to act on behalf of the grantor to file another FSA-211 for the grantor, participate in the County Committee election, or request electronic access. The following transactions are **only allowed** if specifically granted on the FSA-211: routing payments to financial institution accounts, redeeming cotton pledged as collateral, or certifying adjusted gross income.

Different farm operations have different signature requirements. If you are farming as a **partnership** or **joint venture**, all members of the entity are required to sign program documents unless an individual is authorized to act on behalf of that entity and bind all members. If a legal agreement is available, it must state who has signature authority and it must be on file at the FSA office. If the legal document is not available or does not state who has authority to sign, then **all** members may execute a FSA-211. By doing so, the members are designating an attorney-in-fact to act of behalf of this entity which binds all members.

Corporations, Limited Partnerships, Limited Liability Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies, and Other similar Entities will be required to provide the FSA Office with a legal entity document which specifically states which member or officer has authority to sign on behalf of that entity. These documents may include the corporate charter, bylaws, papers executed according to State Law, or a resolution by the board of directors signed by the secretary or other officer other than the designated agent.

Signatures continued...

Estate, Trust, Conservatorship, or Guardianship type entities will need to provide the FSA Office a document executed according to State Law which states who can sign as administrator, executor, trustee, guardian, receiver, or conservator. Documents may include court orders of appointment, court approved certificate or letter of administration, trust agreement or last will and testament that established the trust, or other similar document approved by FSA's regional attorney. These documents must be signed and certified by an officer of the issuing court except those approved by the regional attorney.

The above are examples of the most common types of entities which do business with FSA. We will provide assistance and guidance with **how** the signature should be written. In many cases, the word 'for' or 'by', needs to be included in the signature. For example: John Brown can sign for Brown Farms Inc. if he signs it as **Brown Farms Inc "by" John Brown** or **John Brown "for" Brown Farms Inc.** Receiving an application without proper signature or without having proper signature authority on file will result in that application being determined incomplete and ineligible for payment.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

December 1, 2006 is the final date to purchase NAP coverage for the 2007 crop year for **ALL GRASSES** (hay, grazing, and seed), clover, honey, mixed forage, and alfalfa. 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 deadline.

2007 Payment Eligibility Review

Please be aware that FSA is going through all farm records to ensure we have the proper documentation on file to be eligible for farm programs. Producers should be aware of payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements to be eligible for most United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits. Program payments that require eligibility determinations prior to payment include the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency Payments, Marketing Loan Gains, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and Disaster Assistance Program.

Producers please ensure that your Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review (Form CCC-502) is up to date with the most current information. This form does not have to be filed annually, however you must **inform us of changes in the farming operation** which would affect a "person", "actively engaged in farming", cash rent tenant, or foreign person determination.

We will be reviewing all documents to ensure we have the most accurate and current information in order to determine you are eligible to receive USDA Program benefits and payments. Please work with us to ensure all of your information is accurate so you don't miss out on the benefits for your operation.



CRP Items

Don't call in the dogs just yet! Have you been hunting upland birds this fall? CP-33 (Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds) still has acreage allotted for the eastern one-third of the state to be used. There are roughly 2200 acres unused at this time. In January, the acres will be reviewed and may be given to counties out west. If you want to sign up for this, hurry into the office so we can lock in your acres!

Seeding dates: If you have started a new CRP contract and are going to be seeding a new stand of native grass, remember the dates to do so are December 1, 2006 to May 15, 2007. Also, if you did not receive your seeding sheet in the mail, stop in and see NRCS for a new one. NRCS would like to remind you to use a good quality grass seed when trying to establish a CRP stand of grass. Also, if you plan on using the Conservation District's drill, make sure to contact them to find out about the dates of availability.

2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program

Please remember the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) requires contracts to be signed **EVERY** year to verify payment shares and to select advance payment options. We will be mailing appointment cards to farm operators. At this time it will be **VERY** important for you to review the contracts for accuracy and inform our office of any changes to your farm operation for the 2007 crop year. Farm operators will be given copies of the 2007 contracts to be forwarded on to the land owners for completion.

All producers on the farm must sign and return the 2007 DCP contract **BEFORE** it can be approved and advance payments are issued. If you have a valid Power Of Attorney (POA) on file and will be signing on behalf of that person, please find out if and when they would like their 2007 advance payment. Please ensure that you signed correctly using "for" or "by".

Advance payments can only be issued for **22%** of the direct payment which is less than half of the normal 50% advance of recent years. If you want to receive your advance payment in this calendar year for tax purposes, **contact us immediately.**

County Committee Election

The Coffey county election will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, which includes all of Pleasant, Liberty, Burlington, the west half of Hampden, and the west ¾ of Neosho townships. Ballots were mailed around November 3 and must be returned or postmarked to the Coffey County FSA Office by December 4, 2006. The ballots will be counted by the County Committee on December 6, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. at the County Office in the conference room. Follow the instructions on the ballot carefully. You can only vote for one candidate and the ballot must be signed in the proper place to count. Ballots **can not** be signed by a power-of-attorney. If you receive a ballot for someone other than yourself, forward it to the correct person as you can not vote using a power-of-attorney.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is required. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Estate, Designation of Landowner, DCP Cropland, and Default are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. The final date to request a 2007 reconstitution is Aug. 1, 2007. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008, unless the payments are refunded.

De-combination of Shared Management

Well, as all of you have known for the last several years, I have been splitting my management time and duties between Allen and Coffey Counties. This will soon be changed. Effective on November 26, 2006 I will be in Allen County only. The State FSA Office has made some changes and they are moving forward with a de-combination plan that includes my current shared management situation. I have enjoyed working with all of the producers here, cooperating agencies, and the FSA staff. Steps are in place to make this transition as smooth as possible and this should not interfere with any programs in which all of you participate. Again, I have enjoyed the last few years with each and every one of you in Coffey County. Good luck and best wishes!

Customer Appreciation Day

We would like to remind everyone, **Wednesday, December 13 2006** is our customer appreciation day. Stop in and enjoy some snacks between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All snack items are home made and prepared by the USDA Service Center employees.

Wheat Acreage Reports

Please remember that acreage reporting is required in order for you to be eligible for payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), as well as for loans, and LDP's. The final date to report your planted acres of wheat, oats, and barley is **May 31, 2007**. We would like to complete this activity at the time you enroll in the 2007 DCP program. **You are also reminded that planting dates will need to be provided at the time you report.** Please contact our office to schedule an appointment prior to **May 31st**.

Holiday Season

Our office will be closed on December 25th and January 1st in recognition of Christmas and New Years Day. The USDA employees wish you all the **BEST** in the Holiday Season and we look forward to serving you in 2007!



*Happy
Holidays*

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