



COWLEY COUNTY FSA

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Winfield, KS 67156-3318

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www.fsa.usda.gov

HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Staff meetings-Tuesdays at 7:30 A.M

County Committee:

Vic McClung, Chairperson
Wayne Whitehill, Vice Chairperson
David Bowman, Regular Member
Junea Lawrence, Advisor
Meetings- 1st Tuesday of every Month

Staff PHONE EXTENSIONS:

Pamala Bain, PT Ext 40
Jaimie Bannister, Chief PT Ext 21
Nick Bergkamp, Loan Officer Ex 26
Susan Davenport, PT Ext 25
Barbara Hrencher, PT Ext 24
Bonnie Miller, PT Ext 29
Vickie Thiel, PT Ext 22

Loan Manager:

Gary Nuss

Executive Director:

Sean Rafferty

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COWLEY COUNTY FSA FARMLINE

May 2006

2006 FARM BILL Sign-up



Sign-up for the 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program is currently available for farms to be annually enrolled into a DCP contract if benefits are desired. To timely enroll, a CCC-509 contract must be submitted with signatures from both owners and operators sharing in payments by June 1, 2006. Contracts with signatures obtained by the county office after June 1, 2006, but before Sept 30, 2006, are considered timely filed, but will be assessed a late-file sign-up charge of \$100/farm.

Available to participating producers are two types of DCP payments for all covered commodities including soybeans and other oilseeds; however *only those producers sharing in the risk of producing a crop are eligible for DCP Benefits.*

RECONSTITUTIONS and COMBINATIONS

All farm reconstitutions and combinations must be accepted by the FSA office no later than June 1, in order to be effective for the 2006 DCP fiscal year

CCC 633EZ Reminder

Producers, please remember that we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form as this, and online requests, are currently the only available methods for requesting LDP benefits.

Step 1, Page 1-(The intent)-Both operators and owners need to independently sign and return their own CCC-633EZ Page 1 (good for all commodities, all farms, and all counties for the crop year), before harvest (i.e. hay, silage, combine) on their 2006 crops. This is encouraged as many may lose beneficial interest (risk, title, control) at harvest time, and also allows for CCC-633EZ Page 2 submission and acceptance

Step 2, Page 2-(The request) - Page 2 is the actual request for benefits. Once a CCC-633EZ Page 1 is on file, producers can then submit a CCC-633EZ Page 2 to request benefits anytime before the final loan/LDP availability date for the commodity; whether

they have maintained beneficial interest or not. *Producers will retain the ability to obtain marketing assistance loans on the commodity, unless a CCC-633EZ Page 2 has been completed for the same quantity.*

When receiving LDP benefits, the payment rate will depend on whether the producer still has beneficial interest (risk, title, control) in the commodity.

When the Page 2 is completed, if the producer maintains beneficial interest; the LDP rate will be reflective of where the commodity is stored (Sumner County vs. Cowley County).

When the Page 2 is completed, and beneficial interest is lost (ie sold across the scales), the LDP rate will be reflective of the administrative county where the farm records are maintained on the day beneficial interest was lost. *Documentation will then need to be provided for FSA to determine the date beneficial interest was lost.*

Small Grain Crop Certification Fast Approaching

As a reminder, the 2002 Farm Bill requires all cropland acres located on a farm be annually reported to the Farm Service Agency as a condition for receiving payments under the Direct and Countercyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, as well as loan deficiency and marketing assistance loans. The crop reporting deadline for small grain acreages will come to a close on May 31, 2006. *Cropland reporting after the June 1 deadline is permissible, but only with an assessed late-file fee.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 29	Closed for Memorial Day.
May 31	Final day for requesting a loan or LDP for 2005 commodity loans and LDPs on feed grains, soybeans, and pulse crops.
June 1	Final day to report small grain crop acreages.
June 1	Final day for 2006 DCP Sign-up.
July 4	Closed for July 4 th holiday.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.



APPOINTMENTS *Please*

Your time is valuable. Appointments should increase staff efficiency and save you time. Most of the staff resources will be devoted to serving producers with scheduled appointments. As a result, the number of staff devoted to walk-in customers will be limited and you may be asked to schedule an appointment to avoid lengthy waits. Please call 620-221-2060 to schedule an appointment.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE LIMITATIONS (FAVs)



Farms enrolled into the DCP program are subject to certain restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables. The basic rule to remember is- you can't plant FAVs on "base acres".

Planting watermelons, sweet corn and other similar crops could cause a DCP violation. *The only FAV exception is if the farm, or the producer, has a documented history of planting FAVs. Please keep in mind the following:*

1. Planting a PERENNIAL FAV on DCP base acres is a violation at the time the FAV is planted even if the FAV is destroyed without benefit before harvest.
2. Planting a NON-PERENNIAL FAV on base acres is not a violation if it is destroyed without benefits before harvest. Verification of the destruction must be made by a producer-paid FSA farm visitation.

Home gardens of two (2) acres or less containing fruits and vegetables, planted for self use and/or consumption will not be considered as a FAV. However, if the garden acreage is greater than 2 acres, the entire garden acreage shall be considered as a FAV and could be subject to a DCP violation.

As with any program, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office whenever they have a question or concern as it relates to FSA program benefits.



Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision, or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please call Sean M Rafferty, CED at (620) 221-2060.

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.

SCHOOL GRADES

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Low interest FSA farm loans are available, while funds last, at interest rates between 3.75% and 5.125%. 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.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2006

90-Day Treasury Bill	4.500%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.750%
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	10.000%