

# Osage County Ag Wire

Newsletter of the USDA Service Center in Lyndon Kansas:  
Farm Service Agency - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Osage Conservation District

**Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday**      **March 2010**

## Quick Reference Guide

<b>SERVICE CENTER PHONE</b>	(785) 828-4631
<b>CONSERVATION DISTRICT PHONE</b>	(785) 828-3458
<b>FAX</b>	(785) 828-3716
<b>ADDRESS</b>	115 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Lyndon, KS 66451-9561
<b>E-MAIL</b>	brandon.wilson@ks.usda.gov

## Spring Pasture and CRP Burning Considerations

Fire is an important tool to good management of grassland areas. It is a very effective means to control tree and brush invasion if done in a safe and timely manner. Lack of fire will lead to the reduced quality of grassland for livestock and wildlife.

One of the safest methods for conducting a burn is the "ring fire technique." Fire is first started down wind. The field is then encircled with fire where the fire then burns to the middle of the field.

Cool season grasses such as brome or fescue generally do not need to be burned unless you are going to control eastern red cedar. If that is so, March is a good time to burn cool season grasses. Warm season grasses such as native grass, are best burned in the second and third week of April in most cases. Burning is prohibited on CRP acres after April 15<sup>th</sup> due to the upland bird nesting season.

Brush piles are best burned in snow or following a rain when the surrounding vegetation is still wet. Burning brush piles can send hot embers into the air that can travel hundreds of feet.

If you have questions about burning techniques please contact the NRCS staff at the Service Center.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Reminder

FSA offers low interest loans for construction or rehabilitation of grain and hay storage facilities. Now is a good time to get great deals on bin packages or hay sheds.



## Mark Your Calendar

**May 31st:** Final day for wheat and oats acreage reporting

**May 31st:** Final day for commodity loans on 2009 crops.

**June 1st:** DCP sign-up deadline (call for an appointment)

**June 30th:** Deadline for Conservation District cost share program

**Ongoing:** Sign-up for Farm Storage Facility Loans

**TBA:** CRP General Sign-Up (sometime late spring or early summer)

## March Interest Rates for Certain FSA Programs

Program	Current Rate	Previous Rate	% Change
Marketing Assistance Loan	1.375	1.375	No change
7 Yr Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.125	3.250	↓0.125
10 Yr Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.625	3.750	↓0.125
12 Yr Farm Storage Facility Loan	4.000	4.000	Unchanged

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

The LIP program is available for Osage County livestock producers who lost livestock due to an adverse weather event (adverse is extreme or not normal for the area). Death due to non-adverse weather does not qualify as an eligible loss. Producers applying for the program must file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss becomes apparent.

Documentation that is required to complete each application may fall into one of the two following categories: verifiable or contemporaneous. Verifiable documents must include animal kind/type/weight range and number of animals. This information could include insurance records, USDA measurement service, vet records rendering truck records etc. Contemporaneous records must be accompanied with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records.

Producers must reach their pre-determined normal mortality before animal losses due to adverse weather are eligible for payment. Each animal kind/type and weight range has its own mortality rate.

Producers are encouraged to keep verifiable or contemporaneous documentation on hand for deaths that are at or below the normal mortality rate. This is beneficial for producers so they can demonstrate that they have reached the normal mortality rate and are eligible for any additional approved livestock deaths due to adverse weather.

### **Funds Available for Organic Farmers**

Are you a certified organic farmer or would like to transition to organic farming? Funds are available for organic conservation practices including seasonal high tunnels. The deadline for applications is March 12, 2010. If you are interested be sure to call the service center and visit with Art Hastert.

### **Conservation Cost Share**

The Osage County Conservation District will take applications for state cost share assistance through June 30, 2010. Funding is provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. New projects such as terraces, waterways, water well plugging, household waste lagoons, ponds and many others are eligible for funding. Applications are ranked based on water quality issues. Eligibility requirements apply to all projects. For more information contact the Conservation District office at 785-828-3458.

### **2010 County Committee Election Results**

Robert Scheid of Scranton was elected to serve as a County Committee member for Osage County LAA #2 which covers the north- west part of Osage County. Gary Buek of Burlingame as a write-in was elected alternate County Committee member.

County Committees are elected by USDA program participants to help deliver USDA programs in their local communities.

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