

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 May 2010

Quick Reference Guide

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



Mark Your Calendar

May 31st – Service Center closed to observe Memorial Day

May 31st– Final day for wheat and oats acreage reporting

May 31st - Final day for commodity loans on 2009 corn, milo or soybeans

June 1st – Final day for DCP/ACRE signatures to be returned

August 2nd- Final day for acreage certification for all other crops including fall harvested crops CRP & grass.

June 30th: Conservation Cost Share Deadline

TBA- CRP General Sign-Up

DCP-ACRE Sign-Up & Wheat/Oats Certification Deadlines

Producers are reminded that June 1, 2010 is the deadline for the DCP & ACRE sign-up. Contracts must be completed with all signatures returned by that date. This includes any signatures that may be required of the farm's owners. There are no late filing provisions for the DCP & ACRE program.

May 31, 2010 is the final date to report planted wheat and oats acreage. Any acreage reported after the deadline will be subject to a late filing fee.

CRP General Sign-Up Expected Later this Year

Recently it has been announced that USDA will be holding a CRP general sign-up later this year. Landowners and producers are encouraged to be thinking about this rare opportunity to enroll larger portions of land into CRP. Now is a good time to be identifying those parts of your fields that you may want to enroll such as areas that are low producing, hard to farm or rocky.

One misconception about the CRP general sign-up is that you must enroll your entire farm or field. This is not true. Participants can enroll any shape or size of land. Landowners and operators are encouraged to consider "farming the best and seeding down the rest." This simply means that you should only enroll the most delicate areas of your fields and continue to crop the better parts. Benefits of this consideration include: better manageable units of land, improved crop yields and better returns on crop inputs.

During this sign-up Osage County will be fortunate to have the Melvern and Pomona watersheds as state CRP priority areas. This means that producers who offer land in these areas get more points added to their CRP offers. Producers who are not in the priority areas are also encouraged to apply if interested. These producers can add enhancements to their offers which will improve their ranking score.

Look for more information on the CRP sign-up date in future newsletters.

Final Loan Availability Date

The final loan availability date is May 31, 2010 for all producers wanting a commodity loan on 2009 corn, milo and soybeans.

SURE (Disaster Program) Eligibility Reminders

The 2008 Farm Bill created the new SURE disaster program. To be eligible for consideration under SURE you must have had a total operation production loss of 50% or be in a secretarial designated disaster county and have at least a 10% production loss on one crop of economic significance. Osage County does not have a secretarial designation for 2008 or 2009.

Eligibility for SURE: 1) must have a certified total farm acreage report which includes all hay-land and pastureland 2) must purchase crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties. Crops of economic significance include any crops that contribute at least 5% of the value (total expected revenue) of all crops that you produce which includes hay-land but not grazing land.

Conservation Practice Cost Share

The 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 funded based on water quality issues. Eligibility requirements apply to all projects. Contact the Conservation District for more details.

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

The Osage County Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 a.m.

Technical & Financial Assistance Available for Nutrient Management & No-Till

Improved nutrient management and no-till go well together when moving from a conventional tillage system to a no-till system. Fewer trips over the field in a no-till system saves time, fuel and money. Additionally, no-till is more efficient with the timing and placement of nutrients. A "starter" fertilizer blend of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (per soil test recommendation) is placed 2 by 2 inches down from the seed row into the ground with the planter. Additional nitrogen needs are also injected using anhydrous or other nitrogen sources. All nutrients are placed into the soil with nothing to wash away, unlike other tillage systems where nutrients are placed on the ground surface.

Conservation programs are available to adopt no-till and improved nutrient management systems. Contact the NRCS office for more details.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loans

FSA can provide financing geared to beginning farmers and ranchers. This financing can be particularly helpful if you are a beginner looking to get into farming or a retiree looking for a young farmer to farm your ground. FSA can partner with local agricultural lenders to provide direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers who wouldn't normally be able to finance their operation with commercial credit sources. For more details call the Franklin County Farm Loan office at 785-242-3260.