



**SOUTHWEST KANSAS --** Finney, Grant, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Meade, Morton, Seward, Scott, Stanton, Stevens and Wichita

*April 2006*

### CRP Extensions & Re-enrolled Contracts

**Deadline: April 14, 2006**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring on Sept 30, 2007 represent the majority of CRP in Kansas. These contracts may have received an invitation to be either re-enrolled for a 10-year contract or an opportunity to extend the existing contract from 2 to 5 years. FSA used the environmental benefits index to determine which opportunity would be extended for each individual contract. All contracts, nationwide, were ranked according to the EBI score. That ranking determined whether the contract would be provided reenrollment or extensions.

Participants for each contract will be required to pay a "compliance review fee" if they accept the opportunity to reenroll or extend the contract. Subsequently, FSA will make a field visit to the CRP and verify it is being maintained and in compliance with the terms of the existing contract. Violations would include volunteer trees, uncontrolled weeds, evidence of unauthorized haying or grazing, parked machinery, hay stacks, driving trails or other unauthorized uses. Contracts not in compliance will not be eligible for the renewal or extension offer.

If you are a participant on a CRP contract that expires in Sept. 2007 you should have received a letter advising you of these opportunities. If you have not responded, or if you never received the letter you should immediately contact your FSA office. Your deadline to accept **the offer to extend or renew these CRP contracts is April 14, 2006**. Compliance fees must be received in your county FSA office, indicating your acceptance of this opportunity, prior to close of business April 14.

### CRP General Signup Underway

A general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is open until **Friday, April 14, 2006**. This signup is for enrolling land under new offers for the CRP program. Offers will compete nationwide based on the environmental benefits index (EBI). The EBI is based on costs and five environmental factors: soil erosion; water quality; enduring benefits; air quality and wildlife enhancement. Offers accepted in this signup will become effective October 1, 2006. Detailed information on CRP and this general signup is available at your local FSA office or on the agency's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/cepd/crpinfo.htm>.

### DCP Signup ends June 1

The annual signup for the Direct & Counter Cyclical program (DCP) began in October and **closes June 1, 2006**. All signatures on the contract must be submitted to the FSA by that deadline to be enrolled timely. Farms not enrolled by that June deadline will still be able to submit a late-filed contract if they pay a \$100 late fee. Farms enrolled in DCP after February 8 will receive 40% of the direct payment in advance, with the final payment to be issued in October 2006. You may select the month you prefer to receive your advance payment.

Advance payments may also be requested for the counter-cyclical (CC) payments. The first 2006 CC advance payment, if CC payments are projected, will be issued in October 2006. The second advance would be issued in February 2007 and the final issued in October 2007. All producers will receive the entire CC payment earned with the final payment issued Oct 2007 if advance payments were not requested.

### Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

There is a new Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) form that was first available to use with 2005-crop LDPs. The new form is a **CCC-633EZ**. Previously, you had to complete and submit a CCC-633LDP or a CCC-709, Field Direct LDP form prior to losing beneficial interest in the harvested commodity in order to receive LDP benefits. Those forms are now obsolete.

The first page of the **CCC-633 EZ** form should be filed each year, prior to losing beneficial interest, to receive LDP benefits for eligible crops. That first page, which indicates your intention to LDP, will cover all farms in all counties. You will file page 2 of the new CCC-633EZ after harvest, when you request LDP payment on a certain quantity. The LDP rate in effect for that request will be the rate on the date you filed page 2 or the rate on the date you lost beneficial interest—whichever is earlier. You will still be eligible for LDP if you lost beneficial interest as long as you had page 1 of the CCC-633EZ on file for that crop year in any FSA county office.

The CCC-633 EZ form and instructions are available from your local FSA office or online at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/psd](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/psd)

You may file the LDP in person, by mail, by fax or electronically (referred to as "e-forms").

### Doing FSA Business Online

More and more farm operators and land owners are signing up for eAuthentication to acquire level 2 accounts so they can conduct USDA business on-line 24/7. This access requires filling out an online registration form at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, then make a visit to your local county FSA office for identification verification. Bring your photo id with you to the FSA. The only other requirement is that you have an e-mail address. Once your account is established you will have access to filing eLDP, eForms, Customer Statements, Financial Inquiry and many other programs and information will become available electronically.

### Reporting Land Uses

Participation in most farm programs also requires that you file an acreage report for all planted acres and other cropland uses. If you have not reported acres planted to small grains you should contact your FSA office for an appointment. The final date to report small grains such as **wheat, barley, oats, rye, and triticale is Wednesday, May 31, 2006**. You may also report your spring crops as soon as you have finished planting. The deadline to report all uses other than small grains is **Tuesday, August 1, 2006**.



### Farm Storage Facility Loans

Seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available to purchase and install eligible storage facilities, to permanently affix drying or handling equipment, safety equipment or to remodel existing facilities. Real estate liens are required for loans that exceed \$50,000. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required. For more information on eligibility and other issues contact your local FSA county office.

## NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINES

In the event that a loss is suffered on a NAP crop on which you have a policy you must file a Notice of Loss at the FSA office within 15 calendar days after the disaster or the date the loss becomes apparent. Once the Notice of Loss has been approved and production evidence collected, you must file an Application for Payment at the FSA office.

You are responsible for providing accurate and complete information. This includes timely certification of the planted acres and production. Generally, **acreage reporting deadlines are May 31 for small grains, and the earlier of August 1 or 15 days prior to harvest or grazing for all other crops.** Production reporting deadlines are no later than the subsequent crop year acreage reporting date for the crop. Please check with your FSA office to determine what the reporting deadlines are for your specific crop.

### Hard White Wheat Incentive Payments for 2005 Production

Signup for 2005-crop hard white wheat production incentive payments will end **MAY 31, 2006.**

**The commodity must be:**

- 1) produced in the United States
- 2) US #2 grade or better;
- 3) disposed of through an eligible buyer for any purpose except feed.

Sales documents should include name & address of the buyer and seller; gross quantity; net quantity; selling price per bushel and type and grade of the delivered hard white wheat. 2005 is the last year of this 3-year program.

## CAUTION: FRUITS & VEGETABLES ON BASE ACRES

contact your FSA office to determine what consequences may apply if you are planning on planting a fruit or vegetable on your farm for 2006. Certain vegetables, such as green and yellow peas, have exemption from the statutory provisions that restrict planting fruits and vegetables and wild rice on farms without history of planting those crops. Any fruits and vegetables **planted and reported with an intended use of forage, or green manure** are also exempt IF you pay a fee to cover the cost of a farm visit to verify that the crop has not been harvested as a fruit or vegetable.

## Farm Loans Available

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to farmers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Applicants must meet specific eligibility guidelines and show reasonable ability to repay the loans. Significant funds are set aside specifically to help women and minority producers buy and operate farms through the Loans for Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) persons program. SDA program applicants are not guaranteed loan approval; they must meet the same eligibility requirements as other farm loans. Farm Loan teams for this area are headquartered in USDA Service Centers at Stevens County and Finney County.

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## ELECTRONIC DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM (eDCP)

The new eDCP now allows producers to enroll in DCP online. The voluntary service is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in DCP for the 2005-2007 DCP program years. eDCP sign-up is offered as an additional DCP enrollment option. Producers can still choose to complete their DCP contracts in person at their local FSA office.

There are three steps involved to use eDCP:

1. Obtain eAuthentication Account
2. Access the eDCP service and select DCP options
3. Sign and/or submit DCP contracts

For more information on how eDCP works contact your local FSA office.

## County Committee Nominations

Would you or a producer you know be a good nominee for the FSA county committee? Ask your local FSA office for a nomination ballot.

## DIRECT DEPOSIT

Remember to promptly inform FSA of closed financial accounts or other changes affecting your direct deposit (electronic funds transfer).



***\*\*Note: If you believe you received this newsletter in error, or wish to be removed from future mailings please contact your current or former FSA county office.***

