



District 8 - Barber - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray - Hodgeman - Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Stafford

December 2006

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Producers should be aware that all FSA forms must be properly signed or the eligibility requirements are not met. Improper signatures could result in loss of benefits. All FSA offices are currently reviewing records to ensure that signature requirements have been met. Power of Attorney papers are being reviewed, to ensure that these forms were properly executed. Limited Liability Companies, Corporations, Estates, Trusts, Joint Ventures, and General Partnerships will be reviewed to determine who is authorized to sign for these entities. This will be a lengthy process and may require some producers to furnish additional documentation to their local FSA Office. We appreciate your cooperation and patience with this task.

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 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

CONDUCT BUSINESS ON-LINE

Producers can obtain an eAuthentication level 2 account and conduct USDA business on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from home. This access requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to a USDA Service Center for identification verification. You must have an e-mail address.

Once access is obtained, producers can conduct USDA business online such as eLDP's (Loan Deficiency Payments), eForms, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry and other programs that will become available electronically in the future.

NAP COVERAGE CONTINUES

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage rolls over from one year to the next as long as you pay the service fee by the subsequent year's closing date. NAP cost \$100/crop, not to exceed \$300 per county and \$900 for multi-county producers. For the 2007 crop year, producers interested in adding or deleting NAP crops or changing producer shares on a NAP contract need to act before the crop's application closing date.

December 1 was the closing date in Kansas for all grasses plus alfalfa, oats, honey, and many fruits. January 1 is the closing date in Kansas for apples and pears. Producers with NAP policies are reminded losses must be filed within 15 days the disaster condition is apparent.

RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating.

2007 DCP SIGN-UP

Enrollment for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) is underway and continues until June 1, 2007. Following the June 1, 2007, deadline, FSA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a \$100 late fee. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

Producers can visit their local USDA Service Center or their administratively assigned center, to complete their 2007 DCP contract. Additionally, sign-up can be done online, allowing producers to choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access. DCP participants can view and print out submitted contract options at any time.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in DCP and who obtain eAuthentication accounts. The service has strict security measures to protect participants' private information. Only authorized federal employees have access to information producers submit electronically.

To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP direct advance payments beginning December 1, 2006. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local FSA Office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A special provision exists that allows the contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method known as "Designation by Landowner" provision, must be requested and requires all buyers and sellers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes the signatures of all buyers and sellers. These requests must be made by June 1.

LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for more than three years but not more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers are identified as those who belong to a socially disadvantaged group.

WHAT IS CONINUOUS CRP?

The continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a private land environmental improvement Program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners may receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

The U. S. 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 program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means of 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 729-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The interest rate changes each month. The December interest rate was 4.625 percent.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

CRP MAINTENCE

In 2006, many CRP participants were required to take measures on contract acres to keep them in compliance. As a reminder, trees and shrubs are not allowed unless they are included in the Conservation Plan. Machinery and equipment are not to be parked on CRP acres. Oil and gas well and access roads must be deducted from the contract acres. Hay bales are NOT to be stored on CRP acres, as the grass stand could be adversely affected. Cosmetic mowing or mowing of hunting lanes is also prohibited. No buildings of any type are allowed on CRP. Each contract is paid an annual maintenance fee; producers should continue to control volunteer trees and weeds. Contact your local FSA Office if you have any questions.

REASONALBLE ACCOMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.



*Best Wishes to All
Have a Safe and Blessed
Holiday Season!*

FSA WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:
Christmas Day December 25, 2006
New Year's Day January 01, 2006
Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 15, 2006
Presidents Day February 19, 2006