



FSA NEWS

**Greenwood County FSA Office
1819 E. River St. Eureka, KS 67045**

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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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**County Committee normally meets the 4th Thursday
of each month at 1:30 p.m.**

County Committee Members:
Marshall Stauffer – Chairperson,
Kim Boone – Vice Chairperson,
Zelma Samuels– Regular Member

2006 COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS BEGIN

The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 required the Secretary to solicit and accept nominations for County Committee member positions from organizations representing the interests of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 significantly expanded the requirements of the Secretary to ensure the transparency and accountability of program participation and County Committee elections for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

The County Committee is soliciting candidates from Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA#2) in Greenwood County for nominations of the upcoming County Committee elections. Producers who participate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the

committee. The FSA-669A, Nomination Form for County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee Election, is available in any county FSA office or may be obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be limited to one nominee, signed and dated by the nominee (nominee must sign if willing to have name placed on ballot and agrees to serve if elected), and delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked ***no later than August 1, 2006***. Individuals who want to file FSA-669A may nominate themselves or may nominate another eligible candidate. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers may nominate any eligible candidate. Any producer residing in the County Committee jurisdiction may nominate an eligible candidate.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Producers are able to make *new* offers for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during a general sign-up currently being held from ***March 27 through April 14, 2006***. Offers for the general sign-up will be evaluated based on the environmental benefits index and cost factors. Producers enrolling in CRP agree to plant long-term, resource conserving covers, with the Commodity Credit Corporation providing annual rental payments and cost-share payments. Contracts expiring in 2006 are also eligible to be submitted for new contracts.

Producers with contracts expiring in 2007 were recently mailed offers to extend for a two, three, four or five year extension or re-enroll for 10 to 15 years depending on the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

of the original offer. The final date to accept these 2007 CRP extensions is ***April 14, 2006***.

Additional offers for producers with contracts expiring in 2008, 2009, and 2010 were also recently mailed to extend for two, three, four or five years depending on the EBI of the original offer. The final date to accept these CRP requests for extensions is ***June 30, 2006***. A compliance review fee will be charged for all re-offers or extensions equal to a \$45.00 flat rate plus \$1.00 per acre under original contract. Compliance reviews will be conducted prior to current contracts being approved.

Field visits by FSA personnel will be completed to verify that existing CRP cover is being maintained.

DIRECT PAYMENT CHANGE

Producers who enroll land in the Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program (DCP) after February 8 will have the option to receive an advance direct payment up to 40 percent of the direct payment for any covered commodity for the 2006 crop year. The amount of the advance payment was reduced from 50 percent by the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005, also known as Title I of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

As before, producers may elect to receive their direct payments in two installments per year. The first payment is available starting in December of the

calendar year before the crop is harvested. The balance of the direct payment is available in October of the calendar year in which the crop is harvested.

For the 2007 crop year, producers will have the option to receive an advance payment up to 22 percent of the total direct payment. The total value of the direct payment does not change. Producers will receive the balance of the direct payment in the second installment. Producers who enrolled in the 2006 DCP program prior to February 8, 2006 and elected to receive a 50 percent advance direct payment were unaffected by the Act.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGN-UP – PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Many producers still need to sign up for the Direct and Countercyclical (DCP) program for 2006. Sign-up is an annual requirement if you want to receive government payments on your bases. You must also certify all crop and land uses. The deadline to sign into the program is June 1, 2006. You must report your wheat, barley and oats acreages by May 31, 2006 and your corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers and other crops by August 1, 2006. Failure to timely sign into the DCP program and/or timely certify your crop acres will result in late filing fees.

- IMPORTANT REMINDERS - REPORT FARM CHANGES IMMEDIATELY!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, natural 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.) 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 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) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

***Report any changes in your
address or operation and
Bank Accounts that affect
your FSA payments***

***All USDA Offices will
be closed May 29th and
July 4th in observance
of Memorial Day &
Independence Day***

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