



February 2006

307 Montana Ave
Holton, KS 66436

Phone: 785-364-3329
Fax: 785-364-4891

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Darrell McCrory
Henry Williams
Jo Anne Booth
Chris DeCoteau

Committee meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 am.

Staff:

Aaron Fall, CED
Kathy Barnett
Marlene Westermann
Dara Conley

IMPORTANT DATES:

ECP Deadline – 3/3/06

NAP Deadline – 3/15/06

Final Day to request a loan or LDP on wheat & oats – 3/31/06

CRP General Sign-Up – 3/27/06 thru 4/14/06

Final day to re-offer or extend 2007 CRP contracts – 4/14/06

Final Date to Report Small Grains – 5/31/06

Final Date to request a loan or LDP for corn, soybeans, & milo – 5/31/06

DCP Deadline - 6/1/06

Final day to report feed grain acres – 8/1/06

Office Closed

February 20, 2006 – George Washington's Birthday

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JACKSON COUNTY AG REPORT

CRP REOFFERS AND EXTENSIONS (REX)

Farmers and ranchers with CRP contracts expiring in 2007-2010 will have the opportunity to re-enroll or extend their Conservation Reserve Program contracts. The Jackson County Farm Service Agency has sent notification letters to participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2007, to discuss whether those contracts are eligible for re-enrollment or extension.

Producers interested in re-offering or extending their CRP contract will confirm their interest no later than April 14, 2006. Producers will be required to pay a compliance fee of \$45 plus \$1 per acre, not to exceed \$500 for each CRP contract. A mandatory compliance review will be completed on each contract that is reoffered or extended. All CRP contracts must be in compliance with the Conservation Plan before they may be reoffered or extended.

Producers may re-enroll or extend all or any portion of the CRP acreage expiring. However, the producer cannot add additional land, increase or decrease the extension time offered, or extend a contract rather than enter into a new contract.

Producers who wish to re-enroll or extend their CRP contracts should contact the Jackson County Farm Service Agency to schedule an appointment.

Contracts that will expire in 2008-2010 will be offered the opportunity to re-offer or extend their contracts at a later date.

CRP GENERAL SIGN-UP

A CRP general sign-up has been announced to coincide with the re-enrollment and extension process. The sign-up will be held March 27, 2006 to April 14, 2006. An appointment can be made by contact the FSA office. The general sign-up is open to contracts that expire in 2006 and any cropland eligible for enrollment in CRP.

Cropland will be ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). The EBI ranking system assigns point scores based on environmental factors such as wildlife habitat, water quality, air quality, and soil erosion.

CRP contracts that expire in 2007 and have been offered the opportunity to re-enroll or extend may not be offered in the general sign-up.

The general sign-up will be a competitive bid process. Rental rates will be calculated based on the three predominant soils using the updated rental rates.

WELCOME!

The Jackson County Farm Service Agency would like to welcome Dara Conley to the team. Dara joined the Jackson County FSA staff in December. Dara grew up in Jackson County. Dara and her husband have a small farm near Havensville.

2006 DCP SIGN-UP

Sign-up for the 2006 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is currently underway. **Producers are reminded that in order to be eligible for payment contracts must be renewed annually.** The 2002 Farm Bill provided for payments to be made to eligible producers for covered commodities regardless of market prices.

The Jackson County Farm Service Agency is currently taking appointments to enroll producers in the 2006 DCP program. Producers are eligible for a 50% advance direct payment; however producers must sign a new contract in order to receive the advance payment. As a reminder, all signatures must be obtained or a cash lease agreement on file before a payment can be issued. It is the producer's responsibility to obtain all required signatures or present a cash lease agreement.

Producers have until June 1, 2006 to enroll in the 2006 DCP program; late filed applications will be accepted until September 30, 2006 with a \$100 late file penalty assessed.

ACREAGE REPORTING

The 2002 Farm Bill requires all cropland on a farm to be reported as condition for receiving payments under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), as well as loan deficiency payments (LDP's), and marketing assistance loans.

Producers may begin reporting the acres they have planted to small grains as soon as they have completed their planting. The final day to report **wheat, oats, barley, rye, triticale, and field peas is May 31.** The final day to report feed grains and CRP is **August 1.**

CRP COMPLIANCE

Spring is just around the corner and the Jackson County Farm Service Agency is preparing to begin CRP compliance reviews. CRP participants should review their Conservation Plans and address any CRP maintenance issues that could be a violation of the CRP contract. Items to address include: trees, brush, noxious and non-noxious weeds, erosion problems, vehicles or implements parked on CRP. Please remember that unauthorized mowing, haying, and grazing are not permitted on CRP acres. As a reminder the CRP cover shall not be disturbed during the primary nesting and brood rearing season, which is April 15 to July 15.

GRAIN UNDER LOAN

Due to the unseasonably warm weather, producers with a commodity loan should be checking the commodity on a regular basis. The warm weather has caused some crusting and mold to develop. This is particularly the case with peaked grain in a bin. If you discover this is the case with your grain dryer fans should be turned on to cool and dry the grain in storage.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Jo Anne Booth was elected to serve another term on the Jackson County Farm Service Agency Committee. Jo Anne will represent the farmers and ranchers of the Local Administrative Area 2, which includes the townships of Grant, Banner, Adrian, Lincoln East, Lincoln West, Washington West, and Washington East.

2006 LOAN RATES

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Wheat | \$2.84 bu | Grain Sorghum | \$3.42 cwt |
| Oats | \$1.34 bu | Soybeans | \$4.88 bu |
| Corn | \$1.93 bu | | |

FARM RECORD CHANGES

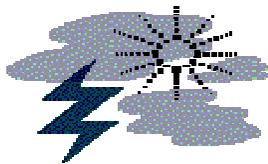
If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you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

FOREIGN INVESTORS 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 their 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 agricultural land.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Jackson County Farm Service Agency will be accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) until March 3, 2006. ECP has been authorized in Jackson County to offer assistance to producers who sustained damage during the October rain and flood. Producers must have sustained at least \$1000 dollars worth of damage to be eligible for the program. ECP will provide cost share to restore damaged structures to the condition they were in prior to the storm. Please note that funding is not currently available, and not all applicants will qualify.



HAZARDOUS WEATHER POLICY

Please contact the Service Center in the event of hazardous weather before visiting to ensure the office is open. If weather conditions pose a threat to the safety of the employees, the agencies in the Service Center may implement the hazardous weather policy and close the office.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.

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 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.

NONINSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The deadline for producers to apply for NAP coverage is March 15, 2006. Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Eligible crops are floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed). Producers who wish to apply for NAP coverage must complete the CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the administrative service fee before the deadline.



SALE OF LAND OR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

Potential successors-in-interest to land with base acres participating in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) need to be aware of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 Requirements.

The statute requires that if a transfer of, or change in, the interest of the producers on a farm with base acres for which direct payments or counter-cyclical payments are made shall result in the termination of the payments with respect to the base acres, unless the transferee or owner of the acreage agrees to assume all obligations under the contract. These transfers or changes are successions-in-interest. A producer or owner must inform the County FSA Committee of the changes in interest no later than September 30 of the current fiscal year.