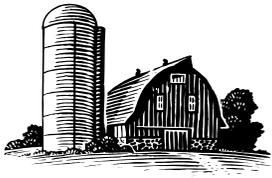




JULY 2006

Labette County News



Labette County FSA
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620-784-5431 phone
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Visit us online at
www.fsa.usda.gov or
email at
kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

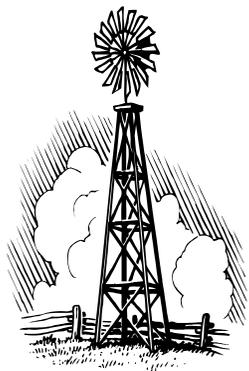
County Committee:
Terry Gossard, Chair
David Dhooche, Vice
Darlene Ferguson

County Committee meets
the 1st and 3rd Wednes-
days of the month

Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Sally McKinzie, PT
Annetta Henry, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Quote of the day:
Experience is simply
the name we give
our mistakes.
--Oscar Wilde



2006 WHEAT HARVEST

It has been pretty quiet here in the office the last few weeks, with producers busy in the fields planting and harvesting. Another wheat harvest is over, and it sounds like producers were, for the most part, pleasantly surprised with the yields countywide. Labette County producers reported a total of almost 54,000 wheat acres planted this year. We hope everyone had a safe and productive harvest, and enjoys the rest of the summer!



ACREAGE REPORTING.....CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT NOW!

The deadline to report 2006 summer crops and grass is August 1, 2006. Labette County producers have been busy planting corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum the past few months, but very few have reported their planted acres, which is a requirement of your DCP contract. Due to summer activities, the office may be shorthanded at times during the month of July, so making an appointment will help everyone immensely. You are always welcome to walk in at your convenience, but your time is valuable and we would like to help you complete your acreage report as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Also, the deadline has come and gone to sign into the 2006 DCP program without paying the \$100 late-filed fee. There are several farms for which all contract signatures have not been returned to our office. These farms can still participate in DCP with payment of \$100 late-filed fee until September 30, 2006.

BOBWHITE BUFFER STRIP CRP ACREAGE STILL AVAILABLE

There are still allotted acres available for producers in Kansas for CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strips. About 3000 acres remain available in Kansas. If you are interested in this program, don't hesitate to come into the office to make your application. This is a first-come, first-serve program with a signup deadline of December 31, 2007.

COC NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR 2006 ELECTION

Nominations are currently being accepted for the upcoming Labette FSA County Committee election, through August 1, 2006. The election will be held in November, 2006. The Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election this year is LAA2, which consists of the following townships: Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland. Any active farm producer who lives in and/or has farming interest in this area and participates in FSA programs can be nominated to run in this election. Nominees must also be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Nominees must sign Form FSA-669A, which must be filed in our office by August 1, 2006, in order to be placed on the ballot. Producers may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. The nomination form may be obtained at the county office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. Further guidelines can also be viewed at this website.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA County committees is important to all farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Establishment of allotments and yields
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Employing County Executive Directors

FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and committee members apply their judgment and knowledge within these regulations to make local decisions.

Important Dates

July 4	Office closed For Independence Day.
July 24-29	Labette County Fair, Oswego
Aug 1	Final date to report spring-planted crops, grass, CRP.
Aug 1	Final date to submit COC election nominations for LAA2
Sept 4	Office closed for Labor Day
Sept 30	Deadline to correct CRP REX maintenance problems
Sept 30	Final date to late-file a 2006 DCP contract (\$100 penalty)

2006 LOAN RATES

2006 commodity loan rates for Labette County have been announced. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

- Wheat—\$2.83/bushel
- Barley—\$1.70/ bushel
- Oats—\$1.34/bushel
- Corn—\$2.09/bushel
- Grain Sorghum—\$3.44/cwt
- Soybeans—\$4.98/bushel
- Sunflowers—\$8.71/cwt
- Canola—\$7.92/cwt



CRP CONTRACT MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

In conjunction with the recently completed 2007-2010 CRP Contract Extensions, we have been conducting field checks on these CRP contracts now and we are finding some problems that we are sure are not isolated to these extended CRP contracts.

Some of the major problems are sericea lespedeza, musk thistle and johnsongrass infestations, cedar trees, large deciduous trees, thickets of sumac and other brush, farm equipment parked on the CRP, CRP having been possibly mowed during the nesting season, and roads and gas wells on the CRP. All producers were told at the time they signed up for their extension that maintenance compliance would be required on this ground. It's obvious that some of the CRP ground in the county has had very little or no maintenance done over the years, even though all annual CRP contract payments included a \$5.00 per acre maintenance incentive. Some producers are going to have some work to do before September 30, 2006 to get the CRP ground into compliance. We are finishing up our field checks and will start notifying producers of their status this week.

Based on our field findings, we are now planning to check the remainder of all the CRP contracts in the county next year. If you have questions concerning maintenance needed on your CRP contract, please contact the office and we will help you determine a course of action.

BE READY FOR LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP'S)

All producers who produce a price-supported commodity are eligible for LDP, provided they have completed FSA eligibility requirements and the Posted County Price (PCP) has dropped below the county loan rate. The PCP is calculated daily by the National FSA, based on daily average market rates of major shipping terminals. For example, on June 26, 2006, the wheat PCP was \$4.56, which is \$1.73 ABOVE the loan rate so there is no wheat LDP at this time. The corn PCP on June 26, 2006, was \$2.06, which is \$.03 BELOW the loan rate. If there was any corn harvested, a \$.03 LDP would be in effect.

Requirements for LDP eligibility are:

- ◆ Commodity acreage must be reported to the FSA office.
- ◆ Producer can only request LDP for commodities they produced.
- ◆ Producer MUST have signed a form CCC-633EZ, Page 1, in the county office before losing beneficial interest (control, risk, and title) in the commodity.
- ◆ Producer must comply with sodbuster, person determination, and income provisions.
- ◆ Producer cannot have ANY Federal non-tax debt OR be convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation.

If you have a commodity crop planted and don't think you have filed a CCC-0633EZ, page 1, please contact the county office and do so as soon as possible.

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.) 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 202-720-6832 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.