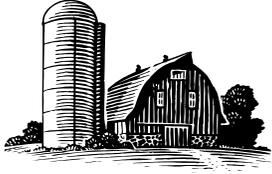




SUMMER 2007

# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5431 phone  
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

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

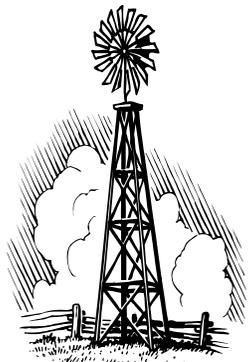
**County Committee:**  
David Dhooghe, Chair  
Darlene Ferguson, Vice  
Ken Foster, Member

County Committee meets  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of  
each 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:**  
We are all here for a  
spell; get all the good  
laughs you can.  
---Will Rogers



## GOT CROPS?

If you have been planting corn, sorghum, or soybeans, remember to arrange an appointment with our office to report your planted crops as soon as you've finished planting. The FINAL date to report crops without a late-filed penalty is August 1, 2007. This is also the deadline to report CRP acreage. The wheat report deadline was May 31, but you may still report wheat with a late-filed fee if necessary.

A large percentage of intended corn was prevented from being planted this spring due to the excessive rains. We will be accepting Prevented Planting crop reports at the same time you report your planted crops. These reports will be recorded on a form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, and must be approved by the Labette County Committee.

We know it's sometimes easier for you to drop in as your schedule allows, but we appreciate your help by making an appointment. This allows us to prepare your paperwork beforehand and give you the best service possible!

## 2007 DCP ENROLLMENT ENDS AUGUST 3

We are also still enrolling farms into the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program through August 3, 2007. Based on historical county records, we are still looking for about 100 Labette County farms to enroll in DCP. Again, don't hesitate to make an appointment with our office to do this. Any farms enrolled after August 3 will be assessed a \$100 late penalty.

Advance DCP payments may be requested by you at the time of signup. Due to legislative action in 2006, the advance payment percentage has dropped to 22% of the total DCP payment. As always, the full DCP payment balance will be paid in October. The Direct advance payment can be requested in any month. The Counter-Cyclical (CCP) advance payments can also be requested at signup time, although the higher market prices indicate there will be no Counter-Cyclical payments for 2007.

**Stay actively informed about the most current Farm Bill proposals, Senate hearings and other information concerning American agriculture at [www.agriculture.senate.gov](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov) or [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)**

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**VISIT OUR FSA BOOTH AT THE FOUR-STATE FARM SHOW IN PITTSBURG, JULY 20-22!**

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## COC NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2007 ELECTION

Nominations are currently being accepted for the upcoming Labette FSA County Committee election through August 1, 2007. The election will be held in November 2007. Although nomination forms were recently mailed to all producers, the 2007 election is limited to Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, which consists of the following townships: Walton, North, Neosho, Montana, Liberty, and Labette. Any producer who lives 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, 2007, 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**

May 31	Small Grains Acreage Reporting Deadline
Jul 4	Office Closed For Independence Day
Jul 15	CRP Nesting Season Ends
Aug 1	COC Election Nominations Deadline
Aug 1	Feed Grains Acreage Reporting Deadline
Aug 3	2007 DCP Program Signup Deadline
Sep 10	Emergency Loan Request Deadline

**2007 LOAN RATES**

Below are the 2007 commodity loan rates for Labette County. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

- Wheat—\$2.95/bushel
- Barley—\$1.75/ bushel
- Oats—\$1.37/bushel
- Corn—\$2.08/bushel
- Soybeans--\$4.97/bushel
- Grain Sorghum--\$3.49/cwt
- Sunflowers--\$7.81/cwt
- Canola--\$7.90/cwt

Rates can also be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov). Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."

**CROP DISASTER AND LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAMS COMING SOON**

On May 25 President Bush signed into law an Appropriations Act that includes about \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for American farmers and ranchers. The two programs that will specifically cover Labette County farm losses are the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). While no enrollment or payment period has yet been established, USDA is committed to moving as quickly as possible to deliver the aid.

The CDP is similar to prior years' programs, with one major difference. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) coverage through FSA are eligible. Any uninsured crops are NOT eligible for this disaster aid. The program covers quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops planted prior to February 28, 2007. Producers must choose one year for which they want to receive benefits. Quantity losses must be in excess of 35% to be eligible and the payment rate is set at 42% of the established crop price.

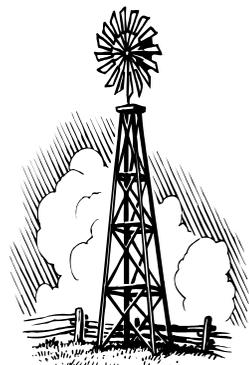
The LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Again, producers must choose one year (2005, 2006, or 2007) for which they want to receive benefits. The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61% of the national payment rate (to be determined) and producers who reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the requested year will not be penalized.

**EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE**

Labette County, along with 14 other Kansas counties, was included in a USDA disaster designation on January 10, 2007. The area is considered a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by the combined effects of drought followed by excessive winds and above normal temperatures that occurred from Jan. 1, 2006 and continuing. This qualifies local farm operators for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. The designation expires on September 10, 2007, which is the deadline for farm operators to apply for an emergency loan. Please contact the Montgomery County FSA at 620-331-4860.

**"SAVE THE QUAILS" WITH CRP BUFFER STRIPS**

There is still upwards of 30,000 acres available for producers in Kansas for CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) Practice CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strips. Bobwhite Buffer Strips not only increase habitat for quail and other nesting birds, they put those unproductive edges of your fields to work making a little money. And the initial cost of putting Bobwhite buffers on your ground is minimal, as FSA pays up to 50% of the expense and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks will pay up to ANOTHER 40% of the expense, with the remittance of a KDWP voucher, available at the FSA office. 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 FINAL signup deadline of December 31, 2007.



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