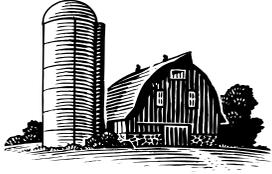




FALL 2007

Labette County News



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

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.

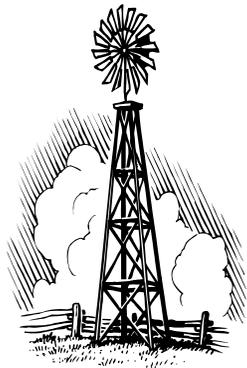
County Committee:
David Dhooghe, Chair
Darlene Ferguson, Vice
Ken Foster, Member

County Committee meets
the 1st Wednesday of
each month

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

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Food for Thought:
People who work to-
gether will win, whether
it be against complex
football defenses, or the
problems of modern
society.
---Vince Lombardi



CROP DISASTER AND LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

We've had lots of questions about the recently approved disaster programs. We are still receiving training and updated information daily on both of these programs, but here is some information that will hopefully help producers prepare. **Please** wait until October 22, 2007 to call for an appointment.

LCP losses are based on federal disaster designation dates. Labette County had 4 designations for 2005 and 2006. Producers will be paid for the number of livestock they owned on the beginning date of the designation for the year in which they choose to file a loss. Designations are:

- 2005—August 1, 2005-July 31, 2006.
- 2006—July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006
- 2006—Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2006 (primary)
- 2006—Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2006 (secondary).

Eligible beef cattle are adults and non-adults over 500 lbs. The per head payment is \$10.66 for adult beef cattle and \$8.00 for non-adult beef cattle over 500 lbs. Other eligible livestock include buffalo, sheep, goats, horses used strictly in a livestock operation, and hogs NOT in a confined operation. Payments received for the Livestock Assistance Grant Program through the Kansas Dept. of Ag will be deducted from the LCP payment.

Producers will need to provide information to FSA for the number and type of livestock owned on the disaster designation beginning date, the physical locations of pastures for that time period and the number of cattle on each pasture, a grazing loss percent for each pasture, and documentation of the costs of additional feed produced or purchased during the disaster period may be needed.

CDP is available to producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) coverage through FSA. Any uninsured crops are NOT eligible for this disaster aid. We have received reports from USDA Risk Management Agency that list crop losses for 2005, 2006, and 2007. Quality loss payments are also a part of this program and could be applicable to the 2007 wheat crop. More information will be coming later this winter on quality loss procedure and payments.

CRP BOBWHITE BUFFER STRIPS END DECEMBER 31, 2007

This is your last chance to apply for the Bobwhite Buffer Strip CRP program. It's a great opportunity to make use of those poor-producing field edges and increase bobwhite habitat for hunting at the same time. There is still plenty of cost-share money available, so your out-of-pocket expense is small. Contact our office for more information.

ECP FLOOD DISASTER SIGNUP THROUGH OCTOBER 23

FSA will implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) in Allen, Elk/Chautauqua, Franklin, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Wilson, and Woodson Counties. Applications will be accepted in the county office through October 23, 2007. This program covers only damages to agricultural land that is NOT classified by NRCS as subject to "very frequent flooding", "frequent flooding", and "occasional flooding". The county office will conduct on-site inspections after an application is filed.

Funding is not available at this time but is expected at a later date. ECP provides emergency cost-share assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Participants can receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Practices approved in these counties include: removing debris from farmland; grading, shaping, and re-leveling measures; restoring permanent fences; and restoring conservation structures.

Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance. There is a payment limitation of \$200,000 per "person" per disaster. Producers with eligible damage in approved counties may file an application for cost-share assistance at their local FSA County Office from September 24 through October 23. Please call for an appointment.

Stay actively informed about the most current Farm Bill proposals, Senate hearings and other information concerning American agriculture at www.agriculture.senate.gov or www.usda.gov

COC ELECTION SET FOR NOVEMBER

Producers residing and/or farming in LAA3 (Walton, North, Neosho, Montana, Liberty, and Labette Townships) will be receiving election ballots the first week of November. PLEASE vote and return the ballots to our office by December 3, 2007.

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. 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.

Important Dates

Oct. 22	LCP and CDP Signup begins
Oct. 24	ECP Signup ends
Nov. 2	COC Ballots mailed
Nov. 12	Office closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 22	Office closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 3	COC ballots due to County Office
Dec. 25	Office closed for Christmas
Dec. 31	Deadline to sign up for CRP Bobwhite Buffer Strips
Jan. 1	Office closed for New Year's Day

EQIP CUTOFF DATE ANNOUNCED BY NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced Friday, November 2, 2007, as the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications to be considered for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding. Conservation practices can be completed under a variety of resource concerns identified by the program; and in turn, cost-share earned. When farmers or ranchers apply for 2008 EQIP funding, they will be required to fill out a Kansas EQIP Self-Assessment Worksheet. These worksheets provide information to the producer about the program, help identify resource concerns, and assist NRCS in obtaining information for ranking the application.

EQIP is available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land. In Kansas, Limited Resource and Beginning farmers and ranchers may receive a higher payment rate through EQIP for structural and vegetative practices.

Agricultural producers interested in participating in EQIP can apply at any time at their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center at their local NRCS office.

NRCS in Labette County can be contacted at (620) 784-5613. Information about 2008 EQIP is available on the Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2008 or at your local USDA Service Center from the NRCS or conservation district staff. This will include information about 2008 EQIP—Kansas EQIP fact sheet; the Kansas EQIP Self-Assessment Worksheets; an application form; a list of eligible practices and payment rates; and specifics on Kansas's ranking process, including criteria used to evaluate applications.

Make plans now to attend the 2008 Labette County Conservation District Bankers Soil Awards Banquet on January 19, 2008

FINAL 2007 DCP AND CRP PAYMENTS ISSUED RECENTLY

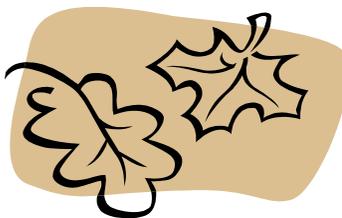
Our office recently issued the final 2007 DCP program payments as well as the 2007 annual CRP payments. If you are enrolled in either one of these programs and met all payment eligibility requirements and deadlines, you should have received a payment. Please contact our office if you are missing a payment.

A note of interest: These payments dispersed 2 million dollars into the Labette County area economy.

HAVE YOU MADE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR FARMING OPERATION? PLEASE NOTIFY US NOW!

Many farming changes are made every year. If you have sold or bought land, changed the way you do business (formed or changed a trust, corporation, etc.), assumed operatorship of a farm for 2008, or any other type of farm business change, please notify us now. The best time to correct farm records is before a new program signup begins. This allows you to receive correct information and payments and can prevent problems down the road. The only way we know a change has been made is if YOU notify US.

We'd also like to remind everyone of the importance of addressing any current FSA program contracts and planted crops when selling land. FSA contracts are binding and penalties can occur when land is sold and the new owner does not choose to succeed or sign the contract. This can happen with any type of FSA program, but the most severe penalties occur with CRP contracts. PLEASE don't let this happen to you! Discuss any planted crops or FSA programs with the buyer and record your joint agreement in the sales contract. If you have any questions concerning your programs or the possible consequences, please contact our office.



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. Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."

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