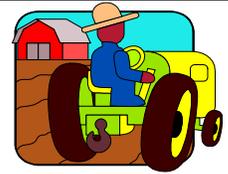




USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY BULLETIN



Leavenworth-Wyandotte
County FSA Office
2050 Spruce St
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048
913-682-1085
Fax 913-682-7886

February, 2006
Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

RICK ABEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Atchison County
FSA Office
605 6th Street
Effingham, KS 66023
913-833-5460
Fax 913-833-5070

County Committee Meetings: Leavenworth-Wyandotte – 2nd Wednesday of each month; Atchison – 2nd Friday of each month

NEW BILL REDUCES DCP ADVANCE PAYMENTS

On February 8th, the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005 took effect which reduces the amount of advance direct payment that an applicant can receive on a DCP contract from 50% to 40% of the total farm payment for 2006. This does not reduce the amount of the total payment for the farm that will be issued in 2006, it merely reduces the amount that can be advanced. For 2007, the advance payment will be reduced further to 22%. All contracts approved after February 8th will be affected by this reduction in advance payment.

Contact us first Because the enrollment process is now web-based, and web-based systems are sometimes inaccessible due to web maintenance, or volume of web traffic, we ask that you contact us by phone ahead of time, and let us know if there are any changes to your farm operation for 2006. Changes may include shares, land ownership, adding or removing a farm, increases in cropland, etc. There is also a cropland reconciliation that is ongoing due to the transition to GIS maps. We also need to know if you want the advance payments. We can then run your contract(s), and have them ready for your signature. **Note:** Many farms that are all grass have DCP contracts. These farms are also required to sign annually. You must sign the contract every year prior to June 1, or pay a late-file fee equal to \$100 per farm to enroll after June 1.

Producer Responsibilities – By signing a contract to participate in the DCP, you agree to:

- *Maintain conservation compliance on all land that you have an interest in as owner, operator or tenant.
- *Maintain acreage equal to the base acreage under contract in an agricultural or conserving use.
- *Not plant fruits and vegetables on contract base acreage.
- *Timely submit a report of all cropland on the farm annually.
- *Keep the FSA office informed of all farm record changes as soon as they occur. (cropland, shares, land sale, etc.)
- *Control weeds and erosion on all contract base acreage.

CRP SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

A signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been announced. This signup will begin on March 27th and end on April 14th. This is a competitive bid process. Your property must have been owned by you for at least 12 months prior to the signup deadline, and meet certain cropping history and other requirements in order to place a bid. An environmental benefit index (EBI) will be assigned to the acreage being bid and your offer will be limited to the typical cash rent value for the three predominant soil types on the farm. After signup, all offers will be transmitted to the national office for evaluation and acceptance. If accepted, the CRP acreage must be seeded and maintained in a permanent grass cover. Harvesting or grazing of the acreage in anyway, is prohibited, except under prior approved management practices. For more information on this signup, please contact our office for details. *We recommend that you call ahead for an appointment.*

CROP INSURANCE CLOSING DATE MARCH 15

The sales closing date for the purchase of crop insurance coverage for 2006 spring planted crops is March 15th. Recipients of recent crop disaster payments on uninsured crops are required to purchase, at least, the lowest level of buy-up coverage available for any crops for which a disaster payment was received. The lowest level is the 55/100 level of coverage. Failure to purchase crop insurance could result in repayment of your entire disaster benefit. Contact a crop insurance agent for more details.



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2050 Spruce Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as practical to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased, or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes of shares, changes of operator or tenant, etc.

2005 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

County	Corn	Soybeans	Milo	Wheat
Atchison	\$2.04	\$4.98	\$3.47cwt	\$3.03
Leavenworth	2.09	5.13	3.57	3.15
Wyandotte	2.09	5.15	3.47	3.18

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.



REMINDERS**

- Husbands and wives can sign most USDA documents on their spouse's behalf unless a written denial has been placed on file with the FSA office.
- Special accommodations can be made for producers with a handicap, vision impairment, or hearing impairment, by contacting Rick Abel, CED, at 913-833-5460, or 913-682-1085.
- Foreign Investors must report holdings of agricultural land in the U.S. within 90 days from purchase date to avoid assessment of penalties. Foreign investors in Atchison, Leavenworth or Wyandotte county, should contact the county office to complete the appropriate filings.
- March 31 is the deadline to request commodity loan, or LDP on wheat or oats for the 2005 crop. May 31 is the deadline to request commodity loan or LDP on corn, grain sorghum or soybeans for 2005.
- May 31st is the deadline for reporting planted acreage of wheat, oats and barley for 2006 harvest.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs, try www.fsa.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or familial status. (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, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.