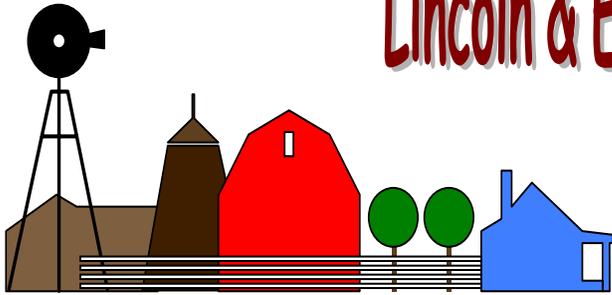


# Lincoln & Ellsworth County FSA News



February 2007

**Lincoln County**  
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**Ellsworth County**  
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## **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## **Lincoln County FSA Committee**

Dale Hlad, Chairperson  
Nick Biggs, Vice-Chairperson  
Dale Rosebrook, Regular Member  
Marylyn S Bell, Advisor  
Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of month

## **Ellsworth County FSA Committee**

Stanton Janssen, Chairperson  
Frank Toman, Vice-Chairperson  
Lucas Janzen, Regular Member  
Kathryn Kohls, Advisor  
Committee meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month

## **2007 DCP Signup**

Signup is over half complete regarding the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program. Producers are reminded that any ownership or operator changes, share changes, etc., that affect the 2007 DCP contract should be reported to the FSA immediately. Advance “direct” payments, at 22 percent of the full “direct” payment rate, can be issued only after all eligibility forms are filed and after DCP contract approval. JUNE 1 is the deadline to receive all required signatures on DCP contracts. After June 1, 2007, a \$100 late-filing fee must be paid per farm.

## **Conservation Compliance**

Eligibility for most federal farm programs requires producers to certify compliance with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) rules. These rules require producers to notify FSA in advance of any land changes. This includes the break out any new land to be farmed and/or modifying any potential wetland area, regardless if the area will be farmed or not.

## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Items**

-- Producers should have now received copies of all approved contracts and/or CRP-1F Addendums for the Re-enrollment/Extension (REX) process regarding CRP acreage. We appreciate the efforts to control volunteer trees and shrubs on CRP acreage intended only for a native grass mix. Future CRP spot-checks will continue to monitor these concerns, as well as requirements to plant/maintain intended covers and wildlife food plots; control weeds and noxious weeds; haying/grazing restrictions; and the exclusion of roads/trails, farm equipment, hay bales, etc. on CRP acres.

-- No announcement has been made regarding a “general” CRP signup for 2007. However, the “continuous” CRP signup is available for practice such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), windbreaks, etc. Signing incentives and higher annual rental payments apply to most of the “continuous” CRP practices.

## **CRP Prescribed Burn Workshop – February 17**

USDA officials and others will participate in a one-day workshop about how to plan and conduct a prescribed burn on CRP acres. The event will be held on Saturday, February 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Emergency Services building, located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue & Highway 14, Lincoln, KS. Anyone interested in attending will need to register by February 9 by calling the Lincoln County Conservation District Office at (785) 524-4482. Pheasants Forever will provide a free noon meal for those who timely register.

## **Women in Agriculture Meeting – March 13**

Women affiliated with a farming interest (their own; or with a spouse, other family member, or entity) are invited to attend a free dinner meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, in the banquet room of the Finch Theatre in Lincoln, KS. Speakers will have short presentations about financial management, facilitating a family meeting, and federal farm program activities. Space is limited so those interested should make reservations soon by calling the Lincoln County Conservation District at (785) 524-4482 or e-mailing [patricia.winters@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:patricia.winters@ks.nacdnet.net) by March 2.

## **2007-Crop Wheat, Oats, and Barley Acreage Reports**

MAY 31, 2007, is the deadline to timely file acreage reports for wheat, oats, and barley. Under current farm law, complete acreage reports are required for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP), and to obtain a commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). FSA measurement services are available for a fee if you are unsure of your acreage.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program**

Seven-year fixed low-interest loans are available to help build or upgrade/increase storage facilities for grains or other approved commodities. Under the FSFL program, loan principal will be 85% of the net costs of the storage facility, not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower. Producers must “qualify” for this program in numerous ways such as submitting accounting records for credit history and repayment ability.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### 2006 Loans and LDP Deadlines

MARCH 31 is the final date to request commodity loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for 2006-crop wheat, oats, and barley. MAY 31 is the same deadline for 2006-crop grain sorghum (milo), corn, soybeans, and sunflowers.

### 2007-Crop Loans Rates

The following are the 2006 loan rates for Ellsworth and Lincoln Counties:

	Ellsworth	Lincoln
Wheat ( bu)	\$2.93	\$2.93
Oats ( bu)	\$1.37	\$1.37
Barley ( bu)	\$1.85	\$1.80
Sunflowers(cwt)	\$8.39	\$8.39

### Farm Reconstitutions

A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts of land that have the same owner and same operator. The sale of a specific tract within a farm would be an instance that FSA would likely require a farm reconstitution to divide the farm. Farm reconstitutions could also involve combining tracts to create new farms. In either case, the final date to request a farm reconstitution is JUNE 1. A special "Landowner Designation" method is available to allow farm program bases to be divided in a manner agreed to by all buyers and sellers. This method should be complete in advance of the land transaction and must be requested in writing including the signatures of all buyers and sellers. Contact the FSA office for more information.

### Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

#### Reminders

The last deadline to obtain 2007 NAP coverage is March 15, 2007, which includes forage sorghum, double-crop milo and soybeans, and numerous fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The cost is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county. Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that good record keeping is required. Producers should discuss the requirements for acceptable production evidence with FSA personnel. Also, producers must report any cause of loss within 15 days from each disaster occurrence, and before harvest or disposition of the crop.

### FSA County Committee Election Results

FSA Committee elections were held by mail ballot November 3 through December 4, 2006. Each year, an election is held to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of each county.

In Ellsworth County, Lucas Janzen was elected to serve a three-year term and Brad Windholz will serve as the alternate.

In Lincoln County, Dale Rosebrook was elected for a three-year term, and Wesley Jensen will be alternate.

We appreciate those who voted in the election and the above individuals who are willing to serve the farmers and ranchers in their areas.

### FSA Farm Ownership and Operating Loans

FSA offers a range of loan programs designed to assist eligible farmers/ranchers who are unable to obtain credit from a commercial lender at affordable rates and terms. Loan programs are for the following purposes: (1) to assist beginning farmers/ranchers; (2) producers who have experienced financial set-backs due to natural disasters; (3) producers with limited resources to establish or maintain a profitable operation; (4) under-served women and minority farmers/ranchers; and (5) financing ag-related projects for rural youth 10 to 21 years of age. The loans may be made directly by FSA or "guaranteed" by FSA with a commercial lender. More details about the FSA Loan programs may be obtained at the local FSA office or from loan officials in Salina (serving Ellsworth County) or Russell (serving Lincoln County). The loan officials will also meet with anyone by appointment.

### Foreign Land Ownership

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.

### Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, call Bill Wineinger at 785-524-4855 (Lincoln) or 785-472-3161 (Ellsworth).