



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm
Service
Agency

Marion County FSA Office
301 Eisenhower Dr.
Marion, Kansas 66861-1376



FSA: A customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented workforce, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture

DECEMBER 2006
COUNTY NEWSLETTER

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM -- TELEPHONE: 620-382-3714 FAX 620-382-2302

2007 FARM PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS WITH CHANGES

Even though the provisions of the 2002-07 Farm Bill still apply to next year's Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) farm contracts, there are a variety of changes for which producers need to be aware. Due to the enactment of the Improper Payments Act, county FSA offices nationwide will now be conducting extensive eligibility file reviews of all producer DCP related documents and forms. Specific individuals may be asked to complete or revise forms AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land (HEL) & wetland conservation certification, CCC-502, farm operating plan, CCC-526, average adjusted gross income certification, and FSA-211, Power of Attorney, as well as submit copies of articles of incorporation, estate, partnership, and trust documents.

The review is FSA's effort to ensure the proper accuracy of all payments being made. This process involves great attention to detail and obviously more time involvement by producers and county FSA personnel. **This review of your eligibility file must be completed during your 2007 DCP enrollment and prior to any associated payment issuances.** Thus, we appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this mandate and apologize for any hardships or inconveniences that may be created.

For the 2007 crop year, only 22% of the direct DCP payment can be issued in advance, down from 40% in previous years. This makes advance payment rates for DCP crops at the following levels: wheat - \$0.114/bu; soybeans - \$0.0968/bu; corn - \$0.0616; sorghum - \$0.077; barley - \$0.0528.

In order for farm parties to earn program payments timely, producers should ensure they have signature authority and properly sign DCP contracts. When signing in a representative capacity for another person or entity please follow these guidelines:

EXAMPLE:

Power of Attorney: for John Farmer by Jean Farmer

*Trusts: John Farmer Revokable Trust by John Farmer, Trustee

*Estate of John Farmer, deceased, by James Farmer, Administrator

* remember to submit all legal documents with these entities

FILE FARM CHANGES TIMELY

Any ownership, operator (tenant), or address changes should be reported timely or as soon as they are known and official to the county FSA office to keep your records current. Keep in mind that changing a farming interest may also require you to update your conservation plans or payment limitation requirements.

In most all cases, a copy of a recorded deed needs to be provided to us to validate land transfers. Please note that FSA is not automatically notified of land record changes filed at the county courthouse. So, this is a producer responsibility.

A reconstitution being a farm combination or division may be requested by the farm owner or operator. Kansas State tenancy laws should be understood and obeyed. To be effective during the current 2007 program year, which began on October 1, 2006, the reconstitution requested must be filed by August 1, 2007. DCP participating farms can be combined with nonparticipating farms. Land in adjoining or neighboring counties may be combined in a single county if land is owned or operated by the same person in those counties.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

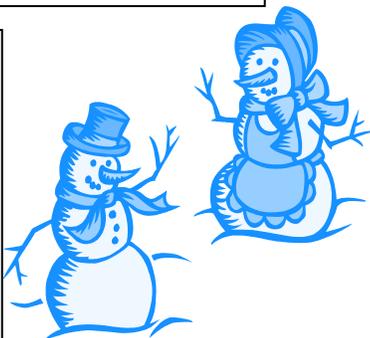
from the

Marion County FSA Committee and Staff

Staff and County Committee

Co Comm: David Mueller, Marvin Ratzlaff, Eldon Andres
Co Comm Advisor: Ruth Ann Carlson
Co. Exec. Director: Bill Harmon
Office Staff: Wendy Hoffman, Linda McLain, Brenda Soyez,
Christi Sigel, Diane Sams

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EMERGENCY FARM LOAN PROGRAM OFFERED

FSA is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to the drought in the 2006 crop year in Marion Co. Eligible loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property and pay production costs associated in the disaster year. Eligible applicants can borrow up to 100% of actual production or physical losses not to exceed \$500,000. The current interest rate for these loans is a low 3.75%. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merit, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability. Applicants must be unable to get credit from a commercial source. Apply by June 12, 2007 by contacting the Emporia FSA office at 620-343-6944.

BRIEFLY...

USDA agency offices will be closed for observance of the following National holidays: December 25, Christmas, January 1, New Year's Day, January 15, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday.

The deadline for filing Commodity Credit Corp. (CCC) loans and loan deficiency payment (LDP) requests on your 2006 crop wool, mohair, or unshorn pelts is January 31, 2007.

A small acreage allocation still remains for producers in this area of Kansas to request practice CP-33, habitat buffers for upland birds, under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). So, if you're interested in installing field perimeters designed to enhance pheasant and quail populations, contact our office soon.

Congratulations to Eldon Andres who has been re-elected to serve on the Marion County FSA Committee for a new 3 year term beginning in 2007 as representative of Local Administrative Area 2. Thanks to all voters for their participation in the election process.