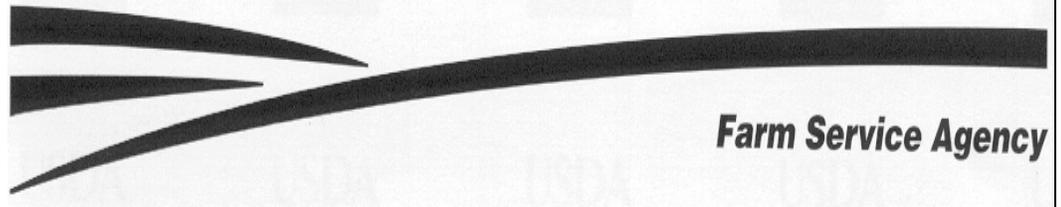


# McPherson County FSA News



FEBRUARY 2006



McPherson County FSA  
200 S Centennial Drive  
McPherson, Kansas 67460-4012  
TEL: (620) 241-1836  
FAX: (620) 241-6311

### Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Bruce Otte, Chairperson  
Michael Patrick, Vice-Chairperson  
Dixie Mattas, Member  
**COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.**

### Office Staff

Michael Westerman, CED  
Kathy Meacham, Program Technician  
Jan Hake, Program Technician  
Pat Regier, Program Technician  
Bev Kavouras, Program Technician  
Suzi Patrick, Temporary PT  
Dan Mason, Field Assistant

### Internet web sites

USDA-[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
NRCS-[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

### Loan Rates

<u>CROP</u>	<u>2005</u>
Wheat	\$2.85/bu
Corn	\$2.01/bu
Soybeans	\$4.94/bu
Oats	\$1.38/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.37/cwt
Sunflowers	\$8.99/cwt

February interest rate is 5.375%.

### Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, revised shares, or renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land in which you have an interest could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

## CRP SIGNUP MARCH

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**FEBRUARY 20** - President's Day – Office Closed

**MARCH 27 – APRIL 14** - General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup

**MARCH 31** - Final availability for 2005-crop wheat, barley, oats, or honey loans and LDP's

**MAY 29** – Memorial Day – Office Closed

**MAY 31** - Deadline to apply for 2005-production incentive under the Hard White Wheat Incentive Program (HWWIP)

Final date to certify wheat, oats, barley and triticale acres

**JUNE 1** - Deadline to provide ALL signatures for 2006 DCP without a late fee

## 27 – APRIL 14

A general CRP sign-up will be held for farmers and ranchers to make offers for CRP's competitive general sign-up from March 27 through April 14, 2006. Offers for general sign-up will be evaluated based on five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. You may begin calling on March 20<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Dixie Mattas was recently elected to the FSA County Committee for a three year term.

An organizational meeting was conducted in January with Bruce Otte being elected Chairperson; Michael Patrick, Vice Chairperson; and Dixie Mattas, Regular Member.



FSA Committees are responsible for local administration of FSA farm programs, under the guidance of the State FSA Committee and applicable Federal laws and regulations.

The election in December was filling the position formerly held by Randy Norland. We commend Randy, and the present committee members for their service to USDA, agriculture, and the producers of McPherson County.

## ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

To collect program benefits including loan deficiency payments, crop loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program, disaster benefits, and base history, it is a requirement to report crop acres. The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program requires all cropland on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including double-crop, waterways, feed lots, feed crops and fallow.



The final date to report wheat, triticale, oats and barley is May 31. The final date to certify corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, alfalfa, double-crop and other feed crops is August 1.

**We are now taking wheat acreage reports so contact our office for an appointment.**

## **NAP CLOSING DATE IS MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>!**

March 15 is the final date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The March 15 deadline would apply to all spring seeded crops, including vegetable and nut crops.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

#### Reminders

**Check** the condition of your farm-stored grain on a regular basis.

**Control** noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

**If you are delinquent** on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

**Report** intentions to break up land before doing so (or at least before planting it). Altering wetlands or breaking up highly erodible land can cause payment ineligibility.

**Producers** planning to move grain under loan MUST contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

**Consider** obtaining Level 2 e-Authentication Access. This allows you to perform many functions on-line from your home computer. This includes filing e-LDPs, enrolling in DCP, checking program payment info, etc. Contact FSA for more information, including handouts and detailed instructions on how to get online.

**To see how** Counter-Cyclical payment rates are determined, track the "Monthly Average Market Prices To Date and Market Year Average Price Forecast for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Commodities" at the following website:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farbill/myaentry.htm>.

#### FSA HANDBOOKS ONLINE

The Farm Service Agency is making its handbooks available online. The Web site is available to anyone with Internet access at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/efoia/directives.asp>.

Not all handbooks are online yet, but the list is growing. Some of the handbooks include 1-CM, Common Management and Operating Provisions; 2-CRP, Conservation Reserve Program, 1-DCP, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program; 1-NAP, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program; and 1-PL, Payment Limitations.

#### Check First Before Clearing Land or Altering Wetlands

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. Then NRCS will determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for our programs and other USDA programs. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for our programs.

### WOOL AND MOHAIR LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Wool and mohair producers will find applying for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments for the wool, mohair and unshorn pelts a little EZer this year thanks to the Farm Service Agency's new CCC-633 EZ form.



The EZ form will take the place of the older CCC-633 PELT and CCC-709 PELT forms. Page one of the EZ form takes the place of the 709 PELT form and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits later on. It's important to complete EZ page one before losing beneficial interest in the commodity.

Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible for their 2006 crop year wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Once page one is completed, producers can request benefits any time during the period that loans or LDPs are available, before or after losing beneficial interest.

The CCC 633 EZ is now being revised to accommodate requests for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Page four of the revised EZ form will be specifically for wool and mohair producers to request an LDP.

Until the revised EZ form is available the county office staff will accept requests for wool and mohair LDPs on CCC-633 EZ, page two, as long as page one was previously submitted.

When the revised CCC-633 EZ is issued, it and the eLDP online request will be the only methods available to request and obtain LDPs.

### LAW CHANGES ADVANCE DIRECT PAYMENTS

On February 8, 2006, the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005 (2005 Act) was signed into law that provides modifications to the DCP direct advance percentages for 2006 and 2007.

The provisions of the 2005 Act become effective for contracts enrolled after February 8, 2006. **Note:** A contract is considered "enrolled" once all required signatures have been obtained from all producers sharing in the base acres on the farm.

The following modifications were made to DCP direct advance payment percentages:

- FY 2006 contracts enrolled after February 8, 2006, will change from 50% to 40%.
- FY 2007 contracts will change from 50% to 22%.

The remaining DCP direct payment will be made as soon as practicable after October 1 of the crop in which the crop is normally harvested.

#### DIRECT DEPOSIT

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

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