



# Nemaha County FSA News

February, 2007

Nemaha County USDA  
Service Center

Nemaha County FSA  
409 North Street  
Seneca, KS 66538  
(785) 336-2164  
(785) 336-6010 FAX  
www/fsa.usda.gov

Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:  
Marvin Winkler  
Wayne Hermesch  
Lee Ukele

Advisor:  
Karen Niehues

The county committee meets on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
at 8:30 A.M., USDA Service  
Center conference room.

Farm Program Staff:  
Marjorie Feldkamp, CED  
Christine Christensen, PT  
Vicky Olenhouse, PT  
Karen VanWinkle, PT  
Peggy Woolsoncroft, PT

Farm Loan Staff:  
Kay McCoy, FLM  
Raymond Mueting, FLO  
Charlene Boden, PT  
Donna Griswold, PT

Field Staff:  
Joe Robke  
Regis Schmitz

Commodity Loan Rates:

|             | 2006   | 2007   |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Wheat       | \$2.85 | \$2.97 |
| Barley      | \$1.70 | \$1.75 |
| Oats        | \$1.34 | \$1.34 |
| Corn        | \$1.85 | \$1.84 |
| Soybeans    | \$4.88 | \$4.87 |
| Gr. Sorghum | \$3.38 | \$3.43 |
| Sunflowers  | \$9.09 | \$8.03 |

The last day to request 2006 small  
grain loans is **March 31, 2007**. The  
last day to request loans on all  
other 2006 crops is **May 31, 2007**.



## County Committee Election Results

As a result of the election that was held in December, Lee Ukele was elected to serve another 3-year term on the Nemaha FSA County Committee representing LAA #1. This area includes the townships of Washington, Berwick, Rock Creek, Capioma, Granada and Wetmore. Lee previously served one 3-year term.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on the FSA County Committee help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loan and payments, conservation programs and disaster payments.

## Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program Signup

The county office is now taking appointments for producers to enroll their farms in the 2007 DCP program. Producers have until June 1, 2007 to enroll. As in past years, participants can request to receive advance direct payments in any month through September, 2007. The advance payment rate this year is 22 percent of the total payment. The balance will be paid in October, 2007. Participants, who do not elect an advance payment, will receive their total payment in October, 2007.

This year during DCP program enrollment, the county office personnel will also be doing a thorough review of producers' eligibility files. The review is being done to determine if the office has proper documentation on file for signature authority for entities, whether powers of attorney are completed correctly and whether eligibility documents on file were completed correctly or need to be updated for corrections or additions. Please contact the county office to schedule an appointment to enroll and be prepared for a thorough review of all your eligibility information.

## Farm Record Changes

If you bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at the Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated. All records need to be current to enroll in the DCP program and for accurate acreage reports.

For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID numbers. Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is called for. The reconstitution (recon) is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

## Designation by Landowner Provision

A special provision exists that would allow contract acres to be divided during a reconstitution in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. This method of division is known as "Designation by Landowner". It must be requested and requires all sellers and buyers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155. This method will sometimes result in a more satisfactory division of contract acres compared to the default method most commonly used for farm and tract divisions. Basically this provision can be used when part of a farm or tract is being sold or a farm or tract is being sold or transferred to 2 or more persons.

## Acreage Reporting Deadline

The acreage reporting deadline for all small grains is May 31, 2007. The county office is taking acreage reports now at the same time producers are completing DCP signup. Remember, if you reported wheat acreage and later plant oats or other small grains, you will need to complete another report for those. If you have small grain acreage to report, call the county office for an appointment.

## Measurement Services

Within the past few years, FSA has been in the process of changing all our field acreages to GIS measurements. Producers were told they should bring all field boundary corrections and changes to the attention of county office personnel so that corrections could be made to permanent field acreages. The Nemaha County FSA Committee has determined that sufficient time has been allowed for producers to complete this process. Therefore, beginning January 1, 2007, any field boundary changes, on which producers want official acreage measurements, will require a paid-for measurement service.

## Check Farm-Stored Grain

Producers with farm-stored grain under loan with FSA need to watch their stored grain to be sure the grain is not going out of condition. Grain that is peaked is especially susceptible to problems. Check for mold or hot spots and take the appropriate action to correct the problem.



## To Mow or Not to Mow New CRP Seedings?

Native warm-season grasses (NWSG) generally have very small seeds and it takes a while to establish them: 2-3 years in eastern Kansas. The fact the NWSG stands take so long to develop sometimes leads to a mistaken conclusion that a seeding is struggling or even failing. Mowing CRP seedings of NWSG in the first growing season may assist in stand establishment but is subsequently all but useless once the root system is established.

During the first growing season of NWSG, it is typical for there to be very little top growth since the plants are developing deep root systems. This deep root system helps to assure long-term survival in our variable Great Plains climate. With this minimal top growth, stands can be shaded out by *some annual weeds*. Mowing during the *first growing season* can counter this threat.

After the first growing season the seedlings become well-enough established to compete successfully from that point on; making mowing in subsequent growing seasons generally a waste of time and resources, destroying valuable habitat and often the wildlife in it.

Mowing from *late May through July* of the first growing season can be beneficial if the seedlings are accompanied by dense stands of annual grasses or by broad-leaf weeds, such as kochia (fireweed) and Russian thistle. The dense canopies formed by kochia and Russian thistle deprive NWSG seedlings of sufficient light and these species are also highly competitive for limited moisture. Both of these broad-leaf weeds form the classic tumbleweeds that can break off and be blown by the wind.

To effectively aid the NWSG stand, first-season mowing must be done before problem weeds get too tall and thick. If mowing is delayed late into the growing season, it is likely that seedling losses have already occurred. Mowing 2-3 feet tall weeds can do more harm than good by creating thick layers of mulch. The risk of creating excessively thick mulch by mowing is greater in eastern Kansas.

Mowing annuals like sunflowers, giant ragweed, pigweed, mares tail (horseweed), or prickly lettuce is not helpful since their more-open growth form allows sunlight penetration to the native grass seedlings below. These weeds may even improve first-year survival, acting as live cover crops that protect the stand from hot summer winds.

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