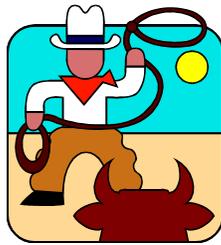


THE KETCH PEN

NEOSHO
COUNTY



FARM
SERVICE
AGENCY

124 West State St.
Erie, Ks. 66733

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m.--4:30 p.m.
Phone: 620-244-3491

NEOSHO COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE:
Teresa Bogner-----Chairperson
Donald Taylor-----Vice Chairperson
Donald Vitt-----Regular Member

Date: December 2006

John A. Hager
County Executive Director
FAX: 620-244-3582

IMPROPER/ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS

The Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 requires Agencies of the Federal Government to report annually on the extent of erroneous payments in programs they administer and actions they are taking to reduce those payments. Results of an audit conducted for various program payments issued by FSA nationwide found that approximately 11% of all program payments were erroneously issued! Of the erroneous payments, approximately 1% were issued in error while the remaining 10% were paid to producers who were not eligible (for various reasons) at the time the payments were issued.

Because of these findings all FSA offices are required to review 2006 payment eligibility and individual program files for all producers participating in the various programs administered by the agency. Currently, a deadline for completing this task has been set for February 1, 2007. Eligibility files for every participating producer in a county must be reviewed to assure that payment limitation, highly erodible land certification, and adjusted gross income certification are completed and accurately reflect eligibility of a program

participant. In addition, documents supporting various program payments must be reviewed to assure that proper signatures and other criteria were met prior to issuing payments. Needless to say, this is an awesome task to complete by the imposed deadline! We have begun this project and are finding numerous situations—especially with entity files—where various eligibility forms were not fully completed, lacked sufficient signatures, or for other reasons were not completed correctly. For these cases we are mailing producers blank or corrected forms for them to complete and/or provide signatures. We ask that producers receiving this material timely complete the documents and return to our office so their records can be accurately updated.

We are also asking cooperation from producers in helping us to meet this deadline. If you are not needing an advance payment before February 1 we are asking that you wait until after that date to enroll in DCP. We also ask that producers wait until after February 1 to report their planted wheat acres. Your cooperation will certainly be appreciated and will assist us in meeting the February 1 deadline.

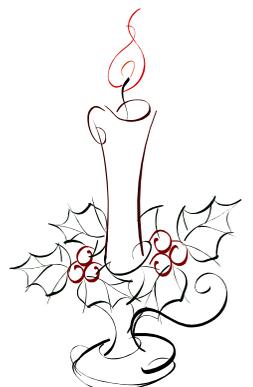
FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to our office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated.

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.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Program participation, whether DCP, CRP, Price Support, or many of the other programs administered by FSA requires participants to comply with conservation compliance provisions. All participants must certify to conservation compliance when enrolling in most of FSA-administered programs! By certifying compliance the participant agrees not to disturb permanent vegetative cover (native grass, trees, etc.) before first obtaining permission from our office. Most cropland in Neosho County has been determined either HEL (Highly Erodible Land) or non-HEL. However, pasture and other areas not cropped do not have these designations so determinations must be made before these areas are disturbed. If you are planning to reseed a stand of fescue pasture, remove trees from a hedgerow, or otherwise disturb permanent vegetative cover please check with our office before doing so. Failure to take this action could subject you to a loss of all program benefits!



DCP SIGNUP IN PROGRESS

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program began on October 2, 2006. Priority is being given to producers wanting advance payments issued in 2006 for income tax reasons and for those individuals requesting advance payments in January, 2007. Because of the added workload placed on staff due to the improper/erroneous payments issue we are asking those producers who can wait until after February 1, 2007 to please contact our office at that time for an appointment to enroll their farm or farms.

FINAL LOAN AVAILABILITY DATES

March 31 is the final day to obtain a commodity loan or, if applicable, loan deficiency payment on 2006—crop wheat and other small grains. May 31 is the final loan/LDP date for 2006—crop corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers.

ADIOS, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

After nearly 23 years of assisting in providing FSA services to Neosho County agricultural producers I have decided to retire from FSA and seek other pursuits. The continuing demands and challenges of this position require “new blood” on occasion and the time has come for that change to occur. I will leave this position on January 3 (4?), 2007. It will be at least a month before a new CED is hired as my replacement. I have enjoyed working with Neosho County producers over the years and though obstacles, at times, seemed insurmountable the end results made the effort worth it. My retirement plans include working on home projects I have put off over the years, traveling, pursuing horse-related interests and, yes, even seeking other employment should I get bored! My staff has graciously committed to sponsoring an open house in my honor. The event will be held on January 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the office here in Erie. Your attendance will certainly be appreciated.

*-Your County Executive Director
John Hager*

FSA WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:	
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>December 25, 2006</i>
<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>January 01, 2006</i>
<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	<i>January 15, 2006</i>
<i>Presidents Day</i>	<i>February 19, 2006</i>



The county committee and office staff would like to wish all Neosho County producers a very



“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR”



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg. 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.