

Osage County Ag Wire

Newsletter of the USDA Service Center in Lyndon Kansas:
Farm Service Agency - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Osage Conservation District

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday May 2009

Quick Reference Guide

SERVICE CENTER PHONE	(785) 828-4631
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PHONE	(785) 828-3458
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Mark Your Calendar

Now through June 30th - Conservation District taking applications for state cost share assistance

May 4 through May 29 - Soybean Request for Referendum

May 18th - Buy-in waiver extension

May 25th - Service Center closed to observe Memorial Day

June 1st - Final day for commodity loans on 2008 crops.

June 1st - Final day for wheat and oats acreage reporting

August 3rd - Final acreage reporting for spring planted crops and CRP.

August 14th - 2009 DCP and ACRE sign-up deadline

Loans for Grain Bin Construction Now Available

USDA can loan on construction or rehabilitation of bins for needed grain storage. If you need grain storage, now would be a good time to be thinking about building a new bin or repairing old bins by adding new rings, augers or other improvements. The winter and spring months are a great time to get good deals on bin packages. The May interest rate is 2.375%.

Cost Share

The Conservation District will take applications for state cost share assistance through June 30, 2009. Funding is provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. New projects such as terraces, waterways, water well plugging, household waste lagoons, ponds and many others are eligible for funding. Applications are funded based on water quality issues. Eligibility requirements apply to all projects. For more information contact the Conservation District office at 785-828-3458.

Notable Items...

ACRE: The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program sign-up will run from April 27 through August 14, 2009. Producers will be briefed on the ACRE program during spring crop certification. Look for more information on ACRE in future editions of the *Ag Wire*.

Acreage Reporting: Producers are reminded that they will need to have an annual acreage report filed for the following programs: Commodity Loans & LDP's, DCP, CRP, NAP, SURE, ACRE and LFP. A full farm acreage report will be required for the new disaster program (SURE). This includes pasture and forage crops. Spring planted crops and CRP must be reported by August 3, 2009.

Base Acres on Federal Land: Producers renting federal land from the Corps of Engineers are notified that base acres on federally owned land will not be terminated; therefore producers can earn a DCP payment on applicable acres.

Final Loan Availability Date: Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan & LDP availability date for 2008 crops is June 1st. The May loan interest rate is 1.625%.

USDA Sets Voting Date for Soybean Request for Referendum

USDA announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to vote to request a referendum on the Soybean Check-Off. The purpose of this vote is to determine whether or not to continue the Soybean Check-off Program. The Soybean Check-off Program is designed to expand uses of soybeans and soybean products in domestic and foreign markets. The national program is financed by a mandatory assessment of one-half of one percent of the net market price of soybeans. Stop by the Farm Service Agency to vote any time from May 4 through May 29, 2009.

Drills

The Conservation District has two Great Plains grass drills for rent. These drills rent for \$10 an acre with a \$100 minimum. They can be used to seed native grass, brome, fescue, alfalfa or other types of grasses. The district also has two John Deere 1590 no-till drills for rent. These drills rent for \$7 an acre and can drill corn, milo, soybeans or wheat. If you are interested, call the Conservation District at 785-828-3458 and your name will be added to the waiting list.



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Extended Buy-in Waiver for Those That Suffered Disasters in 2008

The deadline for producers to pay the buy-in fee for Federal Crop or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) insurance policies has been extended to May 18, 2009. Producers may be considering the buy-in if they think they incurred a production loss due to natural disasters during the 2008 crop year and want to possibly receive a benefit from the Supplemental Revenue Enhancement (SURE) disaster program. Paying a buy-in fee does not provide the producer with crop insurance or NAP for the 2008 crop year; rather it permits the producer to become eligible for the 2008 crop disaster assistance programs. Producers who choose to buy-in under this provision will be considered for insured crops for the 2008 Farm Bill disaster assistance programs only. The buy-in fee is \$100.00 per crop not to exceed \$300.00 per county.

DCP Sign-Up & Wheat and Oats Acreage Reporting

Please call the USDA Service Center in Lyndon to schedule an appointment to enroll in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and ACRE and report your planted wheat and oat acreage. The final completion date for wheat and oats acreage reporting is June 1st, 2009. The DCP and ACRE sign-up deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009.