



# RICE COUNTY FSA NEWS

USDA

January 2006

USDA

Farm Service Agency

## Rice County FSA

1480 W HWY 56  
Lyons, Kansas 67554-9209  
(620) 257-5184 – Tele.  
(620) 257-5653 - Fax.

### Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Howard Behnke, Chairperson  
Mark Engelland, Vice-Chairperson  
Mary Lou Bush, Regular Member  
**COC meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.**

### Office Staff:

Rod Ackerman, Co. Executive Director  
Judy Borgen, Program Technician  
Tammy Clark, Program Technician  
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician  
Margaret Chain, Program Technician  
Shelley Peverley, Program Technician  
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant

### 2006 DATES TO REMEMBER

**Feb. 20** – Closed for Presidents Day

**March 31** – Final date to request a 2005 loan and/or LDP on wheat or oats.

**May 29** – Closed for Memorial Day

**May 31** – Final date to request a 2005 loan and/or LDP on milo, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.

**May 31** – Final date to report 2006 wheat, oats and barley acreages.

**June 1:** Final date to signup for the 2005 DCP program (Farm Program).

### DIRECT DEPOSIT

**Promptly** inform FSA of closed financial accounts or other changes affecting direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer – EFT). FSA cannot deposit payments to accounts that no longer exist.

### 2006 FARM CHANGES

Changes must be reported to our office within 30 days from the occurrence. This is very important because the changes must be made in our files and revised contracts must be completed, signed and returned to our office prior to June 1, 2006. Therefore, if you have any changes please notify our office as soon as possible. It seems like we take farm changes daily.

### COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

LAA #3 in Rice County held an election in December 2005, for a County Committee member. Mary Lou Bush was elected to a three-year term. We congratulate all the candidates who were willing to serve the farmers in their areas.

### REPORT FAILED ACREAGE

While the majority of wheat acreage is in fair to good condition, farmers should still be aware of their responsibility to file a failed acreage report anytime a crop has failed. Filing should be made with our agency and your crop insurance agent (if applicable).

### Acreege Reports Required by JUNE 1

We are now scheduling appointments for acreage certification for those crops to be harvested during 2006. For 2006 we will be certifying entirely with GIS mapping. This process is going to be considerably slower than what we have done in the past so be prepared for a longer stay in the office. For those participating in the 2006 DCP program, to be eligible for DCP payment benefits, all acreage is required to be certified (reported).

**The final date** to certify wheat, barley and oats is **May 31, 2006**. The final date for feedgrains, fallow, CRP and all other crops is **August 1, 2006**.

**Producers with 2006 NAP crops** must certify acreage 15 days prior to: grazing pasture (mid April), or 15 days prior to haying the crop (alfalfa, brome/early May).

**REMEMBER:** You can now call to schedule an appointment.

### 2006 Reconstitutions

Tract/farm reconstitutions involving divisions & combinations are being processed at this time. The final date to apply for a 2006 reconstitution is June 1, 2006. Recons usually result from a change of operator or owner on farm units. Normally, farm divisions will result in base acreage being split in proportion to the resulting cropland acreage for each resulting farm. However, many times the LANDOWNER DESIGNATION method can be used to divide the base acreage as agreed to by all parties prior to an ownership transfer. This method works well with small acreages that will be devoted to residential sites, etc. Contact the FSA office if you have questions regarding this method.

### CRP MANAGED HAYING OR GRAZING

Managed haying OR grazing is authorized 1 out of every 3 years on some (not all) established CRP acres if certain requirements are met. Conservation plans must be revised and approval in writing must be granted before any haying or grazing begins. Haying is only permitted between July 16 and August 15, no extension for weather or any other reason. Grazing cannot begin until July 16 and grazing days depend on stocking rates, not exceed 120 days. There is a 25% per acre reduction in the annual rental payment for acres actually hayed or grazed. CRP planted to forbs or legumes are not eligible for managed haying or grazing.

### Proper Maintenance of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Acres!



As a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participant, you are required to maintain the CRP acreage in accordance with CRP practice requirements. Most of the CRP practices in Rice County are a mixture of "native grasses" or "native grasses and forbs". **A recent clarification of CRP policy prohibits volunteer trees on CRP acreage unless the trees are included in the CRP Conservation Plan of Operations.**

**If you have volunteer trees on your CRP acreage, you must take some type of control measures.**

Controlling the trees can be by mechanical, chemical, or control burning methods. The County Committee was fairly lenient in 2005 as long as you demonstrated an effort to control the trees. **If a field (or an area within a field) has volunteer trees with a canopy of 5 percent or greater, a violation will exist.**

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Any maintenance measures must occur before the primary nesting season so it will not be detrimental to protected wildlife species. The primary nesting season in Kansas is April 15 through July 15. **Anytime you plan to burn please be sure to have the proper burn permits before you begin.**

CRP participants also need to be aware of other prohibited activities and/or uses of CRP. Other **prohibited activities/uses** of CRP acreage include, but are not limited to: Asphalt/concrete plants; Trash disposal areas; Parking and/or storage of machinery, junked autos, etc; Livestock feed storage; Permanent roads/trails; Oil/gas wells and associated tanks, access roads, etc; Cosmetic mowing; Mowing of strips for hunting; and installing houses, buildings, etc.

If you have a problem with trees, noxious weeds, roads, or any other item, please address the problem at once. **Failure to maintain your CRP acres can cause penalties to be assessed or possible contract termination.**

To modify your conservation plan you will need to visit with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact FSA or NRCS at (620) 257-5184.**

We will be undergoing some remodeling in our building soon so please be patient with our mess.

## **2006 DCP – DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGNUP**

Signup is well underway for the DCP 2006 program year. The final date to sign into the DCP program is June 1, 2006.

Contracts were mailed to all farm operators in December 2005 on any farm that did not have a reported change for 2006. If you have not received any paperwork from our office please give us a call. If there are changes and or a reconstitution pending on the farm, realize that these changes are a very time consuming process. Those farms with changes may not be able to be handled immediately.

Advance direct payments of 50% can be requested any month through September 2006.

The final direct payment will be made in October 2006. Advance counter-cyclical (CC) payments may also be requested.

Any farm record changes that could affect the farming operation, such as land ownership, operator, establishing estates, or other changes, need to be reported so the change can be made effective prior to enrolling into the 2006 contract year.

### **WE MUST HAVE ALL ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON THE CONTRACT (CCC-509) BEFORE THE CONTRACT CAN BE APPROVED and IN ALL CASES BY THE JUNE 1, 2006 FILING DEADLINE.**

A \$100.00 fee will be assessed to any farm enrolled after the June 1 deadline. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)**

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

## **FOREIGN INVESTORS**

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

## **2006 NAP INFORMATION**

March 15, 2006 is the final application date for 2006 sorghum forage and other spring planted forage crops.

Passed dates for 2006 crops are: 9/1/2005 was the final date for NAP small grains (oats, wheat, and triticale for forage or grazing); and 12/1/2005 for 2006 alfalfa and all grasses for hay or forage.

### **NAP production evidence-**

\*\*Producers with losses are to notify FSA within 15 days of the loss. As with crop insurance do not destroy the crop until released by a NAP crop loss adjuster.

\*\*Producers who do not have a loss are required to provide production evidence to report and verify 2006 production. The producer must pay the cost of a field reporter to verify the production in the field. The production must not be fed before reporting to FSA. If production is fed and therefore not verifiable, the production is not acceptable as eligible production evidence and will not count towards the APH (actual production history). Producers are to provide bale counts and weights when reporting production of baled crops. We must have verifiable weights of the bales.

## **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.

## **CRP Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds**

The Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) new initiative, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, is aimed at creating 250,000 acres of habitat for the northern bobwhite quail. Kansas has a 20,000 acre limitation. As of 1/17/2006, there were only 2,774.0 acres remaining under this practice. This initiative has been introduced due to the Declining population of the northern bobwhite quail.

The purpose of this CRP continuous signup practice is to provide food and cover for bobwhite quail, upland birds and other species in cropland areas by planting field edges of ***eligible*** cropland, which is suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of wildlife habitat, to an approved cover. These buffers generally should be installed around the entire perimeter of the field or at a minimum, in areas where runoff enters or leaves the field.

For more information regarding this practice and other practices available under the Continuous CRP signup, contact the Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (620) 257-5184.

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