



July, 2006

Rice County FSA

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

Hours

Monday – Friday - 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Howard Behnke, Chairperson
Mark Engelland, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Lou Bush, Regular Member
COC meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month

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 Crop Loan Rates

Wheat	\$2.83 bu
Corn	\$1.98 bu
Soybeans	\$4.90 bu
Oats	\$1.34 bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.30 cwt
Sunflowers	\$8.99 cwt

Record Changes

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

County Committee Election

This fall, producers in LAA-1, the northwestern portion of the county, will hold its election. Howard Behnke currently represents this area, which consists of Farmer, Eureka, Victoria, Pioneer, Lincoln and Harrison townships.

Each County Committee (COC) member is elected by the eligible producers in their area. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them, including DCP, price support and farm loan programs, and conservation and disaster programs.

Nomination petitions were mailed in May by our State Office and are now being accepted for any eligible voter to be a candidate for the COC from LAA-1. FSA is required to ensure diversity on the County Committee and solicit and accept nominations from all eligible producers in the election area, including women and minority nominees. Election guidelines and other election information are available on the internet at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/>

Nominating Petitions must be returned to this office by August 1, 2006. Voters in LAA-1 will then be mailed a ballot this fall and directly elect a County Committee member and alternates. December 4, 2006 is the last day to return completed ballots.

Rice County FSA News

Acreage Reporting Deadline

Reporting of your crop acres **is required** on farms that are enrolled in DCP, contain CRP acreages, insured NAP crops, fruits and vegetables, or produce a crop for which a loan or LDP may later be requested.

The deadline to report your 2006 corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP and other land uses is **August 1**. **Call our office for an appointment.**

If you are not sure of your acreage, you can request a measurement service. The cost of a measurement service is \$25.00 for the first hour and \$10.00 for each additional ½ hour or any portion thereof.

PLANTING FRUITS/VEGETABLES

Farms enrolled into the DCP program are subject to certain restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables. The basic rule to remember is- you can't plant FAVs on "base acres". Planting watermelons, sweet corn and other similar crops could cause a DCP violation. *The only FAV exception is if the farm, or the producer, has a documented history of planting FAVs.*

Planting a PERENNIAL FAV on DCP base acres is a violation at the time the FAV is planted even if the FAV is destroyed with-out benefit before harvest. Further, planting a NON-PERENNIAL FAV on base acres is not a violation if it is destroyed without benefits before harvest. Verification of the destruction must be made by a producer-paid FSA farm visitation. **Home gardens** of two (2) acres or less containing fruits and vegetables, planted for self use and/or consumption will not be considered as a FAV. However, if the garden acreage is greater than 2 acres, the entire garden acreage shall be considered as a FAV and could be subject to a DCP violation

As with any program, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for guidance and clarification.

CRP EXTENSIONS - THE REX PROGRAM

Producers with CRP Contracts expiring in **October of 2007** have been notified of their REX extension or reenrollment options. The final date to sign to extend or reenroll the CRP Contract was April 14, 2006.

Producers with CRP Contracts expiring in **October of 2008, 2009, and 2010** were recently notified of their REX extension or reenrollment options. The final date to extend or reenroll the CRP Contract was **June 30, 2006**.

Acceptance of the CRP offer is through payment of a compliance service fee for spot-check. FSA will be viewing each field to see that the CRP practice is eligible for extension or reenrollment. The following are some items that would cause a CRP Contract to be in noncompliance:

- ✓ Noxious weeds not being controlled
- ✓ Presence of trees on a practice of grass mix only
- ✓ Roads or driving lanes made on the CRP acreage
- ✓ Hay bales, machinery, etc. stored on the CRP
- ✓ Wildlife food plots not planted or maintained

In completing some of the compliance reviews for extension requests we have found CRP Contracts that are not meeting these compliance provisions. FSA is working with producers wanting to gain compliance but **immediate** attention by the producer must be provided. The ground must meet compliance provisions by August 1 for 2007 contracts and September 1 for 2008-2010 contracts. If you have a problem area contact our office and keep the line of communications open as to your intentions and when improvement actions are complete. FSA will complete a final inspection on the CRP Contract to see that compliance has been met.

The current provisions for the authorization of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will end in 2007. The REX provisions will apply to any CRP Contracts approved by the end of the current farm program. We have no idea what provisions if any will be provided for CRP acreage, including these extended or reenrolled contracts, after the end of this authorized CRP program.

Dates to Remember

August 1-Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, CRP, and all other land uses.

Sept. 30-Deadline to enroll into the 2006 DCP Program to remain eligible for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments (with late-filing fee of \$100 since June 1 deadline has passed).

Office Closed for Holidays: July 4th and September 4th.



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 CCC loan grain should 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, including filing e-LDPs, enrolling in DCP, checking program payment info, etc. Contact FSA for more information, including handouts and detailed instructions.

To see how Counter-Cyclical payment rates are determined, track the "2004-2005 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/farmbill/myaentry.htm>.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

The U.S. 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 family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Internet Sites for USDA Programs

USDA: www.usda.gov
 USDA e-Government: <https://www.egov.usda.gov/>
 USDA Office of Small Farms: <http://www.usda.gov/occe/smallfarm/>
 Farm Service Agency: www.fsa.usda.gov
 Farm Service Agency Minority Farmers Assistance: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/msda.htm>
 Kansas Farm Service Agency and Kansas Events Calendar: www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/
 USDA Electronic Forms: www.sc.egov.usda.gov
 USDA Customer Statement: <http://CustomerStatement.usda.gov>
 USDA e-Authentication Level 2 Account: www.eauth.egov.usda.gov
 Price Support Programs (Commodity Loans, LDPs, Milk Income Loss Contracts, Facility Loans, LDP Daily Rates, Loan Rates): www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd
 Conservation Reserve Program: www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm
 Farm Loan Programs: www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl/flphome.htm
 Farm Service Agency News Releases: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/news/releases/index.htm
 Farm Service Agency Fact Sheets: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/pubfacts.htm
 Farm Service Agency Tobacco Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tobacco/>
 Freedom of Information Act: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/EFOIA/efoiamain.htm
 USDA Civil Rights: www.usda.gov/news/civil/cr.html
 Natural Resources Conservation Service: www.nrcs.usda.gov
 Grassland Reserve Program: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>
 Rural Development: www.rurdev.usda.gov



2006 Commodity Loans

Nine-month commodity loans may be obtained by placing the eligible commodity in approved:

- Farm storage, and either requesting a measurement service or certifying the loan quantity on CCC-666.
- Warehouse storage, and obtain a loan on 100 percent of the net quantity on the warehouse receipt.

A lien search, including Federal and State tax liens, will be performed in the Secretary of State's office for all loans after the loan request is filed and before the loan can be approved. The producer must obtain all necessary lien waivers (CCC-679) before the loan can be disbursed.

The county loan rate will be:

- If farm stored, the rate applicable in the county where the commodity is stored, adjusted for applicable discounts.
- If warehouse stored, the rate applicable in the county where the commodity is stored, adjusted for premiums and discounts. For warehouse receipts under merged warehouse code agreements the receipt must show location and county where the commodity was originally delivered, and the loan rate in the county where the commodity was delivered will apply.

The loan can be repaid at the PCP (Posted County Price) or principal plus interest (whichever is applicable).

LOCK-IN Rate (CCC-697) – Once a CCC loan is issued, producers have the option to lock-in the daily PCP as the amount for repayment. This lock-in rate is effective through the earlier of 14 calendar days before the loan maturity date, or 60 days from the date of approval of the rate. A producer may repay the loan any time during the 60 days at the locked-in rate. At the end of 60 days or 14 days prior to loan maturity, the producer may repay the loan at the current PCP. A producer has a *one-time* opportunity to "lock-in" a rate for 60 days. *Only one initial 60 day lock-in rate is allowed on the same bushels.*

Marketing Authorizations (CCC-681-1) – Producers may request that a commodity pledged as collateral for a CCC farm stored loan be released for delivery to a buyer before repayment of the loan. The entire loan quantity will be released and the delivery period is normally for 15 or 30 calendar days. At the time of the request, the producer must inform the office where the grain will be delivered. The repayment of the loan purchased by the buyer must be received from the buyer; otherwise, the buyer is violating the clear title provisions.

Production evidence is always required when using a CCC-681-1 or repaying a loan at the PCP.

Please review the Kansas State FSA
March 2006 Newsletter for more
information on Loans and LDP's

