

December 2006

Norma J. McConkey, CED

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Riley County FSA Office

3705 Miller Parkway
Manhattan, KS 66503

Phone: 785-776-7582

FAX: 785-539-2733

County Committee

Wendell Anderson
Jane Lee Burgman
David Cederberg
Meet 4th Wednesday of the
month @ 8:30 a.m.

Office Staff

Nicole Shumard
Lynne Bartholomew
Jason Jacobson

Geary County FSA Office

711 Southwind Dr.
Junction City, KS 66441

Phone: 785-238-3822

FAX: 785-223-0223

County Committee

Vernon Bohn
John Moyer
Marge Wahle
Meet 4th Tuesday of the month
@ 8:00 a.m.

Office Staff

Sue Rusch
Karla Butler
Deb Marston

To Mow or Not to Mow New CRP Seedings?

The fact that native warm-season grass (NWSG) stands take so long to develop sometimes leads to a mistaken conclusion that a seeding is struggling or even failing. NWSG generally have very small seeds and it takes a while to establish them, 2–3 years is common in eastern Kansas and 4–5 years in western Kansas. The effectiveness of mowing CRP seedings of NWSG decreases after the deep root system becomes established.

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

To affectively 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.

The past few years of dry conditions have provided less-than-ideal stands of grass, but often these same fields or buffers have excellent stands of perennial forbs and legumes. These perennials (alfalfa, coneflowers, prairie clovers, bundleflower, etc.) also provide good ground cover and excellent winter wildlife habitats. Mowing such stands more than 2 years after the initial seeding will not help establish native grasses, if they aren't already established.

For additional information on CRP mowing and weed control, contact your local FSA, NRCS, County Weed Supervisor, or Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department.

Riley County FSA Office Relocates

The Riley County Service Center currently located at 2615 Farm Bureau Road, Manhattan, will be moving to new office space on December 11th. The new location, which will also house the Area NRCS Office, is 3705 Miller Parkway. Telephone service will remain the same for the Riley County Farm Service Agency.

Measurement Service Rate Change

Effective October 25, 2006, the basic fee for performing measurement services in Kansas has been set as \$46.00 per farm. The fee applies to field staking and referencing, bin measurements, and late-filed crop reporting verification. An additional \$8.00 will be assessed for measurements in excess of one hour. Mileage rates will not apply.

Farm 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 result in overpayments or ineligibility to receive benefits.



**Best Wishes
for the Holiday
Season**



Geary County FSA Office
711 Southwind Dr.
Junction City, KS 66441

DCP Sign up is Underway

The final year of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway with sign up ending June 1, 2007. DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. Participants may elect to receive their direct payments in two installments per year with the first payment, available in December, set at up to 22 percent of the total payment. The balance of the total direct payment is available in October of the fiscal year after the fiscal year the payment is earned. Producers who do not elect to take an advance payment will receive the entire direct payment at this time. Producers may also elect to receive up to three counter-cyclical payments per year. For your convenience, you may contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment.

Additional information on DCP and other FSA programs are available at your local FSA office, or on FSA's website at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Signature Authority

A recent national review has shown that a number of authorities for signatures (power of attorney) are out of date or absent, which could result in an erroneous payment. Both offices are in the process of reviewing all signatures by powers of attorney, and signatures for entities such as partnerships, corporations, estates, and trusts. You may be contacted to update a power of attorney or to provide trust or entity documents which would indicate who has the authority to sign official FSA documents of behalf of the entity. Your cooperation will be appreciated.



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>

Committee Election Results

Jeff Schurle of Manhattan was recently elected to serve a three year term on the Riley County Committee, replacing Ms. Jane Bergman who has served as a committee member since 1998. Mr. Schurle will be sworn in during the organizational meeting to be held in the Riley County office on January 17, 2007. Mike Steinfeld of Junction City was elected to serve a three year term on the Geary County Committee, replacing Mr. John Moyer who has also served as a committee member since 1998. Mr. Steinfeld will be sworn in during the organizational meeting to be held in the Geary County office on January 23, 2007. The county committee system allows producers to make important decisions concerning the local administration of federal farm programs. Members apply their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on disaster and conservation payments, establishment of base and yields, producer appeals, employing FSA county executive directions and other local issues. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Close to 8,000 FSA county committee members meet monthly nationwide. Each committee consists of three to five members who serve three-year terms. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election annually.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or 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, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

