



**Rooks County FSA Office**  
 617 S Cedar  
 Stockton, KS 67669-0503  
 Phone: (785) 425-6302  
 Fax: (785) 425-6308

**HOURS: Monday – Friday**  
 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

**APRIL 2009**



**County Committee Members**

**James Eichman, Chairman**  
**Lois Ann Gasper, Vice Chairperson**  
**Steve Cook, Member**  
**Everett McKenna, Advisor**  
 \*The Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month\*

**Office Staff: James Adams, CED**  
**Reesa Brown, PT**  
**Betty Bedore, PT**  
**Kacey Johnston, PT**



**FSA County Committee Election**

Steve Cook was elected to the County Committee (COC) for the West 1/3 of the county. Thanks to the producers who took the time to vote in the COC election. The COC is your grass roots link to Washington. James Eichman and Lois Ann Gasper are the other COC members. Let them know of your concerns and suggestions for a better local office and State and National policies. We would like to thank Robert Atkisson for his years of service and representation for the county as a COC member.

**DCP Signup Continues**

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

**Sodbuster/Swampbuster**

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields

**Kansas AgrAbility Project**

Do you need special accommodations on your farm or ranch because of an injury, illness or disability? Contact the Kansas AgrAbility Project for an assessment of your worksite. Their goal is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, farm families, and farm workers who have disabilities, so they can continue to work and thrive in their agricultural career. Contact them at 1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648).

**Dates to Remember**

- May 25, 2009 – Office closed for Memorial Day
- May 31, 2009 – Final date to report small grains acres
- June 1, 2009 – Final date to apply for 2009 DCP
- Continuous – Farm Storage Facility Loans
- Continuous – Continuous Conservation Reserve Programs
- Continuous – Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans



## Foreign Investors Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U. S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211's on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan Documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

## REPORT FSA FARM RECORD CHANGES

Report record changes such as the sale of any acreage, operator change (for either fall or spring crops), estate or other entity formation or dissolution now. All changes must be reported to the county office within 30 days of the change.

## Conservation Reserve Program

All Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are required to maintain the CRP practices they have. This means on all practices that did not have trees or shrubs planted in them according to a CRP Plan of Operations; trees and shrubs must be controlled by whatever means will accomplish the control. Cutting, spraying and burning are all allowed. However, please check with FSA personnel before burning to make sure it will not impact other CRP issues. *Always refer to your Plan of Operations to determine what operations are required and when.*

Over the past several years intense reviews have been completed and it was apparent some CRP fields were not being properly maintained. Not completing the required maintenance measures will cause non-compliance and monetary penalties to be assessed.

Trees and shrubs on CRP are not the only examples of violations. Non-control of noxious weeds such as musk thistle, Sericea lespedeza, and bindweed among others, is also a violation. Some other examples of violations are:

- Permanent roads or trails
- Trash and brush disposal areas
- Parking or storage of junked machinery and autos
- Livestock hay or feed storage
- Buildings or houses
- Mowing strips for hunting
- Cosmetic mowing to make it look nice



### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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