



November 2007

Scott County FSA News

Scott County FSA

1410 Main St
Scott City, KS 67871
(620) 872-3230
(620) 872- 5873 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Gary Haupt, Chairperson
Cheryl France, Vice-Chairperson
Allen Hess, Regular Member
Committee meeting time:
1st Wednesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m.

Staff

Lora Wycoff, CED
Linda Dunagan, LPT
Janell Ludowese, PT
Danna Steffens, PT
Brenda Moomaw, COT
Laura Kessler, COT

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 10 - LIP/LCP signup began

October 15 - CDP signup began

November 22- Office Closed

Thanksgiving

**December 1 – NAP closing date
all grasses, alfalfa, mixed forage,
and various fruits**

**December 3 – Final date to return
ballots for COC election**

December 25 – Office Closed

Christmas

**On-going – Continuous CRP,
Farm Guaranteed Operating and
Farm Ownership Loans, Rural
Youth Loans.**



UPCOMING ELECTION

Scott County recently completed their slate of nominees for LAA 3. The ballot will consist of two names, Gary Haupt and Alan Dearden. The election ballots were mailed the first week of November. The last day to return these ballots will be December 3, 2007 and will then be counted December 5, 2007. Ballots will also contain a line if anyone chooses to write in a candidate. It is also very important to remember the ballot must be signed correctly for the individual, entity etc. Votes signed by proxy are not counted. Please remember it is important to vote!

UPDATE ON DISASTER PROGRAMS

On May 25, 2007, President George W. Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act). The 2007 Act authorizes LCP, LIP and CDP. This act allows eligible livestock producers to apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Eligible producers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning on Oct. 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

Scott County has been designated a primary disaster county in 2007 for winter storms and 2006 for drought, high winds and excessive heat and winter storms. The county has a contiguous disaster declaration for 2005 for drought, high winds, excessive heat, tornadoes, excessive moisture, hail, lightning, severe storms and winter storms. Each of these declarations were declared for different time frames during the year. Producers are only eligible for claiming losses in either of these programs if their loss was due to the specified natural disasters during the timeframes declared for Scott County.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. These losses can include drought related grazing losses as well as loss of feedstuffs due to other earlier mentioned natural disaster conditions.

LIP compensates livestock producers for loss of actual livestock between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from a natural disaster that was specified for Scott County. Eligible livestock owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died and the livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before February 28, 2007.

Types of eligible livestock vary between the two disaster programs however the following criteria apply to both programs: Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show. Only LCP requires the livestock must have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period.

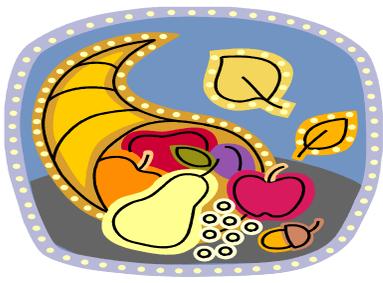
Livestock producers that are interested in applying for LCP/LIP will need to gather the following information that will be needed at signup. LCP - Proof of ownership, number and type of livestock and location on date of disaster declaration. Verification of loss of feed or verification of increased feed costs. LIP – Proof of ownership, proof of death and the cause of death.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006, and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers wanting to apply for any of the disaster programs will need to contact the office for an appointment at 620-872-3230.

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.

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FARM CHANGES

FSA asks for your help in keeping records current. When you notify our office of ANY type of change made in your business, this helps keep your payments coming. This includes changes in ownership, whether by a land sale or transfer due to inheritance. It is also extremely important to notify our office immediately if a producer is deceased. Signing on behalf of a deceased individual could not only cause loss of payments for that individual but for other producers involved with that farming operation. The County Register of Deeds does not notify our office when land is transferred between owners. It's your responsibility to notify us by providing a copy of the recorded deed or the property tax statement or assessment from the county, along with the social security number and mailing address of the new owner.

If your farm operator has changed or you have acquired new land to farm, let the FSA office know as soon as possible. Notify us promptly of address changes and changes in your bank account that would require a new direct deposit form.

Also, keep us updated on any changes within entity organizations such as trusts, corporations, partnerships, etc. FSA requires that current legal entity paperwork be filed annually in order to ensure the proper persons are receiving payment. Please be prepared to submit this information to our office when requested.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER PROVISION

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts that have the same owner and the same operator. A sale of land in the farm or a tract of land within the farm would be an instance that requires notifying the local FSA office so a farm reconstitution can be initiated using the FSA-155, *Request for Farm Reconstitution*. These requests must be made by August 1.

A special provision exists that would allow contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method of division, known as the "Designation by Landowner" provision, must be requested and requires all sellers and buyers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes signatures of all sellers and buyers.

The designation by landowner method of division may be used more specifically when:

- Part of the farm is sold or ownership is transferred.
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons.
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons.
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred.
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons.
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons.

When notifying the county office of ownership changes, the designation by landowner method of division should be discussed to see if this method would result in a more satisfactory division of contract acres compared to the default method most commonly used for farm and tract divisions. The designation by landowner method can only be used when requested and if all buyers and sellers agree in writing.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Need more grain storage? Then consider FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan program. Under the program, eligible producers can borrow up to 85 percent of their net costs (up to \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note) for storage and handling equipment. Loans may be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years, and current loan rate for November is 4.375 percent. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. A 15% down payment is also required. Please contact our office for more information about facility loans.

REGISTER LIVESTOCK PREMISES AT FSA

FSA is working with the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) to make premise identification registration easy for livestock producers. FSA is available to assist with on-line recording of livestock premises (generally headquarter location). This registration is the first step to implement the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to protect animal agriculture. NAIS can then provide livestock owners and health officials a rapid trace-back of animals in case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.