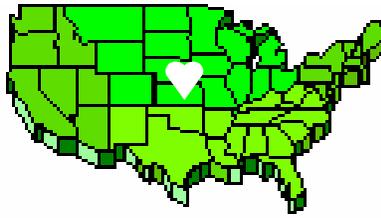




# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 School Avenue  
Smith Center, KS 66967

COUNTY COMMITTEE:  
Mary Arment      CHAIRPERSON  
Robert Koops,    VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Darin Hawkins,    MEMBER

Cary J. Tucker  
County Executive Director

**FROM THE HEART OF THE USA**

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

January 2008

**LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED**

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-ups have begun. Eligible livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed and or grazing losses and or LIP for livestock death losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

LCP - The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed or grazing losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in a disaster designated county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed or grazing loss or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, deer, equine and sheep that are part of a commercial farming operation. Documentation must include an inventory of eligible animals on hand either January 1, 2005 or January 1, 2006. Written, signed leases must be provided if the grazing acres were not reported and certified in the year of the disaster.

LIP - The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, in disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, equine, goats, and sheep that are part of a commercial farming operation. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

**Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007".

The program covers production losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in crop years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Recent legislation has extended the 2007 crop year to cover all crops planted in 2007. Applications already approved will be automatically adjusted for the disaster affected spring crops. Producers will need to sign the new loss application.

Producers who sustained 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.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for assistance.

Losses must be in excess of 35 percent of established FSA yields to be eligible.

No time frame has been established as of this writing to begin taking applications for this CDP.

**CALL NOW FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

**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. Even though no Farm Bill has been passed at this time, undoubtedly farm records will need to be correct and current to receive USDA benefits. A copy of the sale's agreement, deed and or a signed copy of the Contract for Sale is required for any sale of farm land. All changes must be reported to the county office within 30 days of the change. Failure to report changes may cause the loss of program benefits.

**County Committee Election**

Robert Koops was re-elected to the County Committee (COC) for the east 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. Mary Arment and Darin Hawkins are the other COC members. Let them know of your concerns and suggestions for a better local office and State and National policies.



Non-Discrimination Statement  
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. January 2008 interest rate is 3.625 percent. There is a \$45 application fee.

**YOUTH LOANS**

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to finance a modest, income-producing, agriculture-related, educational project while participating in 4-H, FFA, or similar organization. The maximum loan amount for a youth loan is \$5,000.

A youth loan provides an opportunity for rural youth to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. The approved project must be related to the business of agriculture.

The youth must be participating in an established organization that supports agricultural projects, such as 4-H, FFA, or similar organization. The organization provides the structure, the adult supervision, and the expertise to help the youth plan and complete the project. To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- be a citizen of the United States, United States non-citizen national or a qualified alien under applicable Federal immigration laws.
- live in a town of less than 50,000 people;
- be between 10 and 20 years old;
- be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The applicant must be recommended and continuously supervised by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club advisor, vocational teacher, county extension agent, or other agriculture-related organizational sponsor.



The applicant must also obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law.

For more information, please contact the Smith County FSA Office.

**NAP COVERAGE**

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production on an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to commercial crops or agricultural commodities, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of the average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline. The application deadlines for NAP coverage is:

- September 1 for seeded small grains for grazing. (wheat, rye, triticale).
- December 1 for all grasses for forage and grazing, alfalfa, oats for forage and honey.
- March 15 for spring seeded forage crops.

**REPORT ALL PRODUCTION LOSSES WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE OCCURENCE**