



WABAUNSEE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



United States
Department of
Agriculture

County Committee:

Shirley A Stuewe, Member
Gerald Hund, Member
Robert Kraus, Member

Wabaunsee County FSA Office

103 E 6 St
Alma, KS 66401-9694

Office Staff:

Deb Ridgway
Nancy Sommer
Monte N Johnson - CED

COC Mtg. 2nd Wednesday of the Month @ 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

November 2006

Phone: (785) 765-3329
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2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Producers may now enroll their farms for the 2007 DCP program. Producers may call the county office and arrange for a signup appointment. Appointments allow the county office to be better prepared for your visit, make changes or corrections if needed and better schedule our time to assist you with enrollment. Before a farm can be enrolled, all needed changes of ownership must be verified and any needed farm division or combination must be completed. The first 22% of the '07 program payments could be issued anytime after December 1 for enrolled farms. We are also certifying your wheat acreage when you sign up.

Farm operators having level 2 access may enroll their farm thru the web at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm and log in with your eAuthentication account information. Operators enrolling thru the web will still need to obtain land owner signatures, even to verify "0" share for cash rented farms, and be responsible for getting all needed signatures to the county office before the farm can be approved for payment. If you do not already have level 2 access you may obtain it by completing the online registration form located at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> then you will have to visit a county office to confirm your identity and present your driver's license. If you sign up online, please put your shares in decimals. (Example 1/3 = 33.33, 2/3 = 66.67).

For the 2007 crop year, producers will have the option to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the total direct payment. The total value of the direct payment does not change. Producers will receive the balance of the direct payment in the second installment.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Wabaunsee County Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 will be holding elections for the County Committee position. This covers the western half of the county. The nominee for this area is: Shirley Stuewe. Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers in LAA #2 by November 3, 2006. **Ballots must be signed on the back of the envelope and returned by December 11, 2006.**

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

FSA has a Farm-Stored Facility Loan (FSFL) Program available to eligible producers. Producers can borrow up to 85% of the cost, not to exceed \$100,000, to build new or remodel existing permanent storage facilities or drying or handling equipment for up to 7 years. A minimum down payment of the difference is required. The interest rate is equivalent to the rate charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity loan amount and is fixed for the life of the loan. May's interest rate is 4.875%.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

CCC COMMODITY LOANS AND LDPS

The 2007 crop loan rates for Wabaunsee County are:

Wheat	\$2.80	Grain Sorghum	\$3.29 cwt.
Corn	\$1.97	Soybeans	\$4.92
Oats	\$1.34	Barley	\$1.75





PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT LIMITATION REQUIREMENTS

Producers should be aware of payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements to be eligible for most United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits. Program payments that require eligibility determinations prior to payment include the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency, Marketing Loan Gains, Environmental Quality Incentive, and Disaster Assistance Programs.

No program benefits can be afforded any producer until form CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review and supporting documentation has been provided and County Committee determinations made. The Farm Operating Plan does not need to be filed annually. However, producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation which would affect a "person," actively engaged in farming," cash-rent tenant, or foreign person determination. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Contract shares that may reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or a change from share rent to cash rent, modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement.
- *The size of a producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm that may affect the application of a cropland factor.
- *The structure of a farming operation, including any change in the member's share.
- * Contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management.
- *The acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.
- *An increase in income that may affect the 3-year average for the determination of average adjusted gross income or other change that affects eligibility under the average adjusted income limitation.

By statute, entities earning program benefits subject to a payment limitation must provide to the county committee the names, addresses, and ID numbers of the entities' members. The entity is also required to inform its members of the requirements to designate "permitted entities." Signature authority is required for all entities.

Form **AD-1026**, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Certification (WC), must also be on file and a County Committee determination made prior to receiving benefits for most programs.

A "person" or entity can earn \$40,000 per year in direct payments, \$65,000 in Counter Cyclical payments, \$50,000 under the Conservation Reserve Program, \$450,000 under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and \$100,000 under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Other programs also have payment limits, such as Loan Deficiency payments and Marketing Loan gains of up to \$75,000, a separate marketing loan gain or LDP limitation of \$75,000 exists for honey, peanuts, mohair, and wool. Spouses, if certain conditions are met, may be considered a separate person for payment limitation purposes if they request to be. An individual or entity cannot be eligible to receive certain payments and benefits if the average adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$2.5 million unless at least 75 percent of the average AGI was derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

Payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations may be initiated by the County Committee or requested by the producer. All payment limitations and eligibility determinations, as well as AGI certifications, are subject to spot check. A "not actively engaged in farming" determination may result in the loss or denial of all program benefits and request for repayment of USDA payments or loans.



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.