



November 1, 2006

Washington County FSA News

Washington County FSA

705 B Street
Washington, KS 66968
(785) 325-2253
(785) 325-2657 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Eileen Hansen, Chairperson
Caroline Peterson, Vice-Chairperson
Dolores Jueneman, Regular Member
Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff

Cindy Zimmerman, FLM
Brandy Weber, FLO
Midge Miller, PT
Marilyn Laflen, PT
Brenda Heck, PT
Dawn Bargman, PT
Debbie Voelker, PT
Dianne Garber, PT
Linda Beikmann, CPT
Rob Larkin, CED

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31 – Final date to request loan/LDP on 2006 crop wheat, oats, and barley.

May 31 – Final date to request a loan/LDP on 2006 Corn, Milo, Soybeans, and Sunflowers.

May 31 – Acreage Reporting deadline for 2007 Wheat, Oats, & Barley

June 1 – Final date for producers to enroll in the 2007 Direct Counter-Cyclical Program without paying a late-file fee.

Reminder – Producers who purchased NAP coverage need to file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster event.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Changes in farming operations are required to be reported to the FSA Office to ensure program benefits are earned by the eligible participants. Failure to report changes can result in the loss of program benefits as well as additional penalties. Common changes are but not limited to:

- change in operator(s)
- change in landowners
- creation of trusts or other entities by producers
- building of houses or other structures on cropland

Changes in farm records often result in the need for a farm reconstitution. The final day to request a 2007 farm reconstitution is June 1, 2007.

2007 DIRECT COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2007 Direct Counter-Cyclical Program began October 1, 2006 and runs through June 1, 2007. Participants may signup after June 1, 2007; however, a \$100 late-file fee per farm will be assessed.

During signup participants will need to decide when they would like to receive their payments. On the direct side, producers will need to decide if they would like to receive a 22% advance payment or receive 100% of the payment in October of 2007. On the Counter-Cyclical side, producers must decide if they would like to receive advance payments. Producers can choose to receive a 35% advance in October 2007 and/or a 35% advance in February of 2008. The final counter-cyclical payments are issued in July or October of 2008 depending upon the crop.

NOTE: If you receive Counter-Cyclical advance payments, they may have to be refunded if the market price goes up.

Other requirements of the program are:

- Full acreage reports must be filed with the FSA Office to be eligible for DCP Payments.
- Failure to provide accurate acreage reports could result in the loss of DCP payments.
- Weeds, not just noxious weeds, must be controlled on all contract acreage including acreage devoted to a growing crop.

For an appointment contact the Washington Co. FSA Office at 325-2253.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Producers are reminded that May 31, 2007, is the final acreage reporting deadline for 2007 crop wheat, oats, and barley. For Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports must be filed by the earlier of the crop insurance reporting date or 15 days prior to harvest or grazing of the crop. **Prevented planted acreage reports are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date of the crop. Prevented planted acreage reports must be accompanied by documentation to prove, to the County Committee's satisfaction, the intention to plant the crop for harvest.**

Producers with acreage that failed because of disaster-related conditions must report that acreage to the FSA Office prior to destroying the crop. For failed acreage, producers must be able to prove to the County Committee's satisfaction that the crop was planted with the intent to harvest and that the acreage failed because of disaster-related conditions.

All cropland on a farm is required to be reported to be eligible for Direct Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program payments. Failure to file accurate acreage reports by the applicable deadlines will cost a producer late-file fees and/or DCP payments. Measurement services are available to eliminate the possibility of an inaccurate acreage report.

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.

CRP COMPLIANCE

CRP participants are required to maintain their CRP contract acres according to the Conservation Plan of Operations. Conducting activities on CRP acreage that is not part of an approved conservation plan can result in noncompliance and could ultimately lead to contract termination. Contract termination can be very severe as the CRP participant will be required to refund all CRP annual rental payments, cost-share payments, incentive payments, plus a penalty for the violation.

Examples of Noncompliance are:

- Unauthorized haying and grazing
- Unauthorized planting of a crop on CRP acreage
- Unauthorized treatment such as mowing, spraying, and burning during the primary nesting or brood rearing season
- Not complying with State noxious weed laws
- Undesirable trees, weeds, plants, insects, or pests on contract acreage
- Not establishing a satisfactory cover or practice within the time prescribed
- Failure to perform required management activities
- Unauthorized uses, such as parking equipment on CRP, stacking and/or storing hay, and constructing a road, house, or other building on contract acreage.

Again, it is the CRP participants responsibility to maintain their CRP contract acreage. Once the Farm Service Agency finds a problem, at a minimum, a payment reduction will be assessed on the acreage in noncompliance. For questions contact FSA at 785-325-2253.

ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

FSA Offices around the state are conducting reviews to ensure eligibility forms, signature authority, and contract documents are on file and are properly completed according to program regulations. During this review FSA employees will be reviewing entity papers to verify who has signature authority for Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Trusts, and other entities. For entities whose papers don't clearly state who has authority to sign, additional documentation will need to be provided before FSA can approve any further documents for enrollment or payments. This review will be completed in conjunction with signup for the 2007 Direct Counter-Cyclical Program.

A common finding is that Power-of-Attorneys, Trustees, and other entity representatives are not correctly signing program documents. In future mailings in which a program participant is asked to sign on behalf of an entity, the Washington County FSA Office will be enclosing a worksheet showing acceptable signature formats. Please review this worksheet because incorrect signatures will be returned until an acceptable signature is received. FSA will not be able to approve applications until all acceptable signatures are received which could delay or result in the denial of USDA benefits.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

These are available as direct loans only and have a maximum loan amount of \$5,000. Rural youth loans may be made to individuals who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club, FFA, or local vocational instructor. Individuals must be at least 10 but not more than 20 years old to be eligible.

TARGETED FUNDS TO BEGINNING FARMERS

Each year Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to beginning farmers. Beginning farmers must have been in the business less than 10 years and meet certain other requirements.

CRP MANAGED HAYING\GRAZING PROVISIONS

FSA Offices were recently notified of changes to the CRP managed haying and grazing provisions. These changes are the result of a complaint filed in a US District Court by the National Wildlife Federation and several state Wildlife Federation organizations. The settlement of this complaint has resulted in the following changes to how Kansas operates CRP Managed Haying and Grazing. These changes affect new contracts approved after September 25, 2006, and existing contracts, provided managed haying and grazing was not authorized under a conservation plan of operations before September 26, 2006. The frequency of managed haying is limited to no more than once every 10 years;

however, participants will be limited to haying no more than 50 percent of each field or contiguous field once in 5 years. The frequency of grazing is limited to no more than once in 5 years with a stocking rate not to exceed 75 percent of the NRCS-approved stocking rate. For questions on the new CRP managed haying and grazing provision contact the Washington County FSA Office at (785) 325-2253.

