



May 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
Pat Bohl, 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

May 31 - Final date to request a loan/LDP on 2005 Corn, Milo, Soybeans, and Sunflowers.

May 31 - Acreage Reporting deadline for 2006 Wheat, Oats, & Barley

June 1 - Final date for producers to enroll in the 2006 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 2006 farm reconstitution is June 1, 2006.

2006 DIRECT COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Since the passage of the 2002 farm program, producers are required to annually enroll into the program. June 1, 2006, is the final day to sign up and for all signatures to be received for the 2006 Direct Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) without having to pay a late-file fee.

On the direct side, producers will need to decide if they would like to receive a 40% advance payment or receive 100% of the payment in October of 2006. 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 2006 and/or a 35% advance in February of 2007. The final counter-cyclical payments are issued in July or October of 2007 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.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Producers are reminded that May 31, 2006, is the final acreage reporting deadline for 2006 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.

2006 WASHINGTON COUNTY LOAN RATES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the 2006 county loan rates for most commodities, as authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill.

The 2006 Washington County loan rates are as follows:

WHEAT	HRW	\$2.78	BU
	SRW	\$2.56	BU
OATS		\$1.34	BU
BARLEY		\$1.70	BU
CORN		\$1.90	BU
SORGHUM		\$3.28	CWT
SOYBEANS		\$4.86	BU
SUNFLOWER		\$9.10	CWT

Washington County loan rates for 2006 crops not listed above will be available on the Farm Service Agency Web site. The Web site is located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/LoanRate.htm>.

APPLY FOR YOUR LOAN TODAY

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR BORROWERS

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.