



July 2007

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

Staff
Cindy Zimmerman, FLM
Brandy Weber, FLO
Midge Miller, PT
Marilyn Laflen, PT
Marci Elliott, TPT
Brenda Heck, PT
Dawn Bargman, PT
Debbie Voelker, PT
Dianne Garber, PT
Linda Beikmann, CPT
Laura Kessler, COT
Rob Larkin, CED

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1st - Deadline to submit nominations for the 2007 County Committee Election.

August 1st - Final Date to certify 2007 spring seeded crops, CRP, and NAP crops.

August 1st - Final date to request a 2007 farm reconstitution.

August 3rd - Final date sign up for the 2007 DCP program without a late-file fee.

September 1st - Non-insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) application closing date for aquaculture, barley, canola, Christmas trees, nursery crops, rye, spelts, triticale, turf grass, sod, and wheat

On-going - Continuous CRP, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans.

2007 Loan Rates

Wheat\$2.78 bu
Oats\$1.34 bu
Corn\$1.90 bu
Sorghum\$3.28 cwt
Soybeans\$4.86 bu
Sunflowers\$9.10 cwt

2007 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The nomination period for farmers and ranchers interested in serving on the Washington County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee ends August 1, 2007. Elections will take place this fall.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. The 2007 Washington County Committee Election will occur in Local Administrative Area #3 which includes the townships of Haddam, Mill Creek, Grant, Coleman, Brantford, Strawberry, Linn, Clifton, and Sheridan.

Producers may be nominated by another producer, by organizations representing minorities and women, or may nominate themselves. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> ; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received in the Washington County FSA Office at 705 B Street, Washington, by close of business on Aug. 1, 2007.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers. This year's elections take place Nov. 2 - Dec. 3. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

Any interested producer is encouraged to contact our office at (785) 325-2253 or stop by the office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. before August 1st 2007.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Producers are reminded that August 1, 2007, is the final acreage reporting deadline for 2007 spring seeded crops and CRP. 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 planting 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 fee of a least \$46 per farm 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.

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE FROM FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Farmers in Washington County, who suffered losses due to the freezing weather on April 4-10, 2007, may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans. This is according to Secretarial Disaster Designation S2525.

Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay.

FSA loans covering physical losses may be used to replace or restore essential property lost through this disaster.

FSA loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses,

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses. Loan availability is limited to \$500,000.00, less the outstanding principal balance of any and all prior emergency loans. The final date to apply is 02/15/2008.



FSA's 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND SPOT CHECK REVIEW

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber, and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

CRP and DCP Maintenance Reminders

Producers are reminded that they must control noxious weeds and wind and water erosion on acreage that is under contract in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). This includes fallow acreage. CRP participants are also reminded that they must control noxious weeds and should ensure volunteer trees are not becoming a maintenance problem. Another item participants need to remember includes no mowing shall be conducted on CRP acreage other than what is specified in the conservation plan of operation. Unauthorized mowing will be viewed as a violation, this includes but not limited to cosmetic mowing, mowing to park machinery or mowing every year to control maintenance issues. Always contact your local FSA office before mowing any CRP to ensure you comply with your maintenance requirements.