

February 2008

# Wright County News



**Wright County  
USDA Service Center**

**Wright County FSA**  
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**County Committee**  
Evelyn Livermore-Fisher  
Gale Kinser  
Gary Taylor

**Meeting Dates**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month

**Program Technicians**  
Sheila Divine  
Samm McDaniel

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Executive  
Director**  
Clyde Connelly

**District Director**  
Jim Kyle

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Evelyn Livermore-Fisher! Evelyn was re-elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area 2 on the county committee. Evelyn was elected to her third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in January, and determined Gale Kinser will serve as the county committee chairperson and Evelyn Livermore-Fisher will serve as the vice-chair for 2008.

## USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock And Feed Losses

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers must choose one year for which to receive payments.

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other disaster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Also included is the **Livestock Indemnity Program** for producers who lost livestock as a direct result of the ice storm in January 2007. Applicants must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide verifiable proof of death. If verifiable proof is not available, a third party certification may be used. The owner must provide a written, dated and signed statement that no other proof is available, number of livestock by category when the deaths occurred, physical location in inventory when deaths occurred and documentation that supports reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when deaths occurred. The third party certification must provide a written and signed statement giving specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, affiliation to the producer, telephone number and address, number and kind of livestock that died because of the disaster and other specific details for the committee and DD to determine the certification is acceptable.

## ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS of Wright County it's not to late to sign up

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we have started issuing payments to producers in Wright County with approved applications. If you have not applied, please call our office to schedule an appointment. There is no deadline for sign-up as of yet.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss; you can be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) - \$10.66/head
- DAIRY(Adult) - \$27.72/head
- DEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>) - \$8.00/head



The **Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment** (DDAP-III) Program, which provides benefits to eligible dairy producers for production losses suffered as a result of natural disasters since Jan. 1, 2005, has also been extended by the 2008 Act to cover, in addition, any 2007 disaster occurring before Dec. 31, 2007.



As a result, DDAP-III sign-up, which began Dec. 3, 2007, was temporarily suspended until automation, policy, procedure and other administrative items could be updated accordingly. **DDAP-III program sign-up will resume after the final regulations are published.**

## Kansas City Mails 1099-G

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. **Refunds are no longer reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries web-based database.**

Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at the FSA's homepage, and click on "Online Services". Once the page opens, click on "Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers" which is located under the "Related Topics" section. Next, producers will login with their USER ID and password and then select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

## NAP Coverage Deadline

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Ap-

plication for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed **by March 15<sup>th</sup>**, the deadline date for 2008 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

## Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Power of Attorney

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.



Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

## Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.



## Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

## Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

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 — apply early 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 FSA loan of-

ficials to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.000%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.125%

## What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

***To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.***

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.



Dates to Remember	
Feb. 18	President's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDP's.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

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