



Allen County FSA Office  
 202 W Miller Road  
 Iola, KS 66749  
 Phone: (620) 365-2901  
 Fax: (620) 365-5785

**County Committee Members**

Marjorie Mentzer, Chairperson  
 Marvin Sander, Vice Chairperson  
 Gary Coltrane, Member

*The Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month*

**Hours:** Monday- Friday  
 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Office Staff:** Doug Peine, CED  
 Lindsey Hammond, PT  
 Marthena Spainhoward, PT  
 Jandy Wiltse, PT

**July 2008**

**Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**. As we wind down the quantity side, quality loss signup begins **June 23, 2008**.

To receive CDP benefits for quality losses, farmers must have had crop insurance or been under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred. To qualify for a quality loss, the crop must have suffered a 25% loss on both quality and economic (price) because of an eligible disaster condition. The 25% economic loss is that monetary loss suffered from the quality damage for the crop. If your non-contracted 2007 wheat was docked more than 25% for poor quality and the price you received was less than \$4.84, you may qualify for additional disaster benefits. Those of you who contracted your 2007 wheat and actually filled your contracts, the same quality loss computations will apply. However, your economic loss is eligible if your contract price was reduced more than 25% because of the quality damage.

All of the following must be provided to compute a quality adjustment, by unit: 1) total net production, 2) evidence of the quantity loss, by load, & actual price received for each specific quantity (load) that matches the quality loss evidence. Ideally, provide us the same data that was submitted to your insurance agent.

All marketing contracts for crops that were filled will need to be provided for production sold under a marketing contract. For quicker service, contact the FSA service center and set up an appointment. If you have questions, please call the FSA service center at 365-2901.

**Livestock Disaster Programs**

The signup period for 2005 thru 2007 LCP and LIP will **end** close of business **July 18, 2008**. All applications submitted by producers after close of business July 18, 2008, shall be disapproved because they were not filed during the application period and are not **appealable**.

**Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaches**

Acreage reporting time is just around the corner. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, will prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

The final date to report CRP, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and silage/hay crops is August 1. This also includes any double cropped acreage that you need to report. Crop reporting deadline has been extended to August 15, 2008. Any crop report taken after August 15 will be considered late filed and will be charged a late filed rate of \$46.00 per farm. Please call the Allen County FSA office to make your appointment to certify all acreages on your farm(s) by the deadline.

**2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program**

With passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, the DCP sign-up period for the 2008 crops began June 25, 2008, and will end September 30, 2008. The CC-509 form, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract" will need all owners and operators signatures on the CCC-509 returned to the office by September 30, 2008. During the next couple of weeks, the office is mailing the DCP contracts to the operators to obtain **all** signatures (including the owners) on the contract and return to the office.

**CRP Critical Feed Use**

Certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been authorized to be available for hay and grazing after July 15, 2008. Some of the eligible land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. This land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use however a \$75 fee will be charged to process the required contract modification. All hay or livestock must be removed as required by the conservation plan no later than November 10, 2008. Producers with eligible practices have been notified by letter of eligibility to participate in the program. Please call the office at 365-2901 for more information regarding the CRP critical use program.

**FSA County Committee Election**

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is vital that every producer vote in this election because the county committee is the direct link between the producers and the USDA

The 2008 election for Allen County Committee will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the northwestern portion of the county. This includes the townships of Iola, Geneva, Carlyle, Deer Creek, and Elm.

Dates to remember:

- June 15, 2008 Nomination period begins
- August 1, 2008 Final day to file nominations to FSA
- November 3, 2008 2008 ballots mailed to eligible voters
- December 1, 2008 Final day to return ballots to FSA
- January 1, 2009 elected members and alternates take office

**FSA Informational Meeting**

We will conduct two informational meetings on July 31, 2008. The meetings will be conducted at Iola High School in the Lecture Hall. The times are 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM. Select which one works best for you. Discussion subjects are COC election, CRP critical feed use, Crop Disaster for quality, the 2008 DCP program.

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 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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.  
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### **Report Your 2008 Farm Operation Changes Now**

Please ensure your farm operation changes are timely reported to our office. Now is the time to report any new farms you have purchased, sold, rented, given up, etc. for the 2008 crop year. Failure to timely report these changes, may result in over or under payments to the affected individuals. All changes of tenants and owners are to be reported by the earlier of 30 days from the date the change is final **or August 1, 2008**, in order for the change to be effective for the current crop year.

The final date for producers to request a 2008 farm reconstitution is **August 1, 2008**. When requesting a reconstitution, keep in mind the designation by landowner method of reconstituting your farm. The designation by landowner method is the division of base payment acres in a manner agreed upon by the original farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This can be different than the cropland or contribution percentage that is normally used to reconstitute the farm. If the landowner designation method is used, the sellers and buyers or transferees must sign the reconstitution request agreeing to the division of the contract acres. Keep these dates in mind and ensure you notify our office if changes have been made or if you anticipate any changes for 2008. Contact our office for more information.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

### **Spousal Signatures**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a Written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211's on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan Documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type, storage structures designed for whole grain storage
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility
- Remodeling existing storage facility

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

### **Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership Program (10-40-50)**

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership Loans are available to help obtain financing for the purchase of a farm. The applicant must put down 10 percent. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible. The FSA loan rate will be locked in for the full 15 years, and currently the rate is 4.0 percent. For further information please contact the local Farm Loan Program office at 620-724-6227.

### **FSA Guaranteed Loans**

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g. banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions), with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Operating purposes. More information regarding FSA guaranteed loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**June 23**- CDP Quality Loss Sign-up begins

**July 4** – Office Closed for Holiday

**July 31** - Informational meeting on 2008-2012 Farm Bill and other on-going info. At Iola High School in the lecture hall. Times are at 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM, your choice.

**July 18** – Livestock Compensation Program/Livestock Indemnity Program Application Deadline

**August 15**- Final date to report spring seeded crops and CRP. Late filed and Prevented Planting deadline

**August 1** – Close of County Committee Nomination period

**\*Please don't forget to report any failed or prevented planting acres to our office so that you receive history credit**