

Bourbon County Farm Courier



Farm
Service
Agency



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FSA Committee: Joe Ludlum, Ed Karleskint, Leon Fry, Gloria Luker

Douglas E. Niemeir, CED

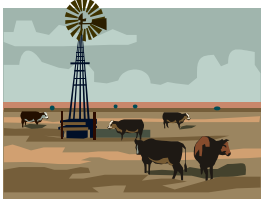
COC meetings: second Thursday

Phone (620)223-1880 Fax (620)223-6916

June, 2008

Office Hours 8-4:30

Disaster Programs

Applications for benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) must be filed by the recently announced **July 18, 2008 deadline**. The LCP offers some reimbursement to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses, or added feed costs, in any one of the years 2005, 2006, or 2007 due to a weather related disaster condition. **Benefits are based on the number of eligible animals on hand January 1** of the applicable year which were grazed through that year, as compared to the grazing loss, or additional feed costs.  Payment is set at a maximum of \$10.66 per animal unit (based on a beef cow).

Livestock numbers, pasture type and size, applicable tree canopy, and fertilizer information are needed to get an application started. Calling ahead (620-223-1880) for an appointment is recommended to streamline the application process as much as possible.

The **CDP covers mechanically harvested crops** from the same base years that were insured with multi-peril crop insurance. The same deadline is in effect for this program.

Acres Reports Needed

Fil a complete report of crop and land uses by August 1—According to provisions of the new Farm Bill, an annual report of crops and land uses is needed for farm program participation.

Annual acreage reports will be needed for all farm program benefits which will include:

- All farms enrolled in CRP.
- Price Support benefits like commodity loans or loan deficiency payments.
- Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops.
- Any new programs in the Farm Bill.

New CRP Grazing Option

Due to the current “short supply” and “higher cost” of feed situation, the Secretary of Agriculture will make available some CRP acres for haying or grazing. No payment reduction will apply, but a \$75 per contract processing fee will be charged. Haying or grazing (up to 50% of each field) can start after approval, but no sooner than July 16. Approximately half the contracts in Bourbon County could qualify. A revised conservation plan is needed. **Contact our office for details or to apply!!**

Farm Bill Enacted

Enactment of the new Farm Bill has now been concluded. Implementation of its provisions will now begin. The first step will be “translating” the language of the legislation into operating procedures for use by USDA agencies in making the bill’s program available to our nation’s farmers and ranchers. We will review the definitive details of the new law in our **weekly news column and email magazine** as available. Enrollment will likely occur this fall.

Nominations Upcoming



Nominations can be made beginning June 15 for a position on the three member Bourbon County FSA Committee. The area hosting the election this year is Local Administrative Area 2 which includes the **townships of Marmaton, Pawnee, Drywood, and Scott south of highway 54**. Leon Fry currently represents this district.

All currently active farm/ranch owners or operators are eligible to serve on this committee as well as to vote in this election. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available online at www.fsa.usda.gov or at your local USDA Service Center. The nomination period ends August 1. Voting is conducted by mail with ballots due by December 1, 2008.

CRP Maintenance

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) agreed when signing their 10-15 year contract to maintain these acres according to the program guidelines. That means attaining a stand of grass, controlling noxious weeds, controlling brush and trees, and taking any other actions needed to adequately maintain the CRP cover.

Needed controlled burning should have been completed during April. Chemical applications for sericea lespedeza control with Remedy or Pasturegard (or similar product) should be accomplished during June as well as use of these chemicals for tree and sprout control. Johnsongrass control with Plateau or Outrider (or similar product) should be accomplished before the plants go to seed, so June is good time for this treatment too.

For information or recommendations concerning CRP maintenance, contact our office or your local K-State Research and Extension office.

SAFE

Applications are now being accepted for USDA's latest CRP initiative for establishing wildlife habitat in cropland fields. State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) provides many of the same benefits of the already available Quail



Buffers, but does offer more flexibility for eligible areas in a field (does not have to be only the edge of a field) and in the size of the areas offered. Kansas received an acreage allocation for use across the state. Contact your USDA Service Center staff for program information. Enrollment is continuous, so can be started at any time.

Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producer to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.



The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type bins and new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All FSFL loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 per borrower. Loans in excess of \$50,000 require a real estate lien. A minimum down payment is also required. For details contact your local FSA office.