



April 2008

Cherokee County News

Cherokee County USDA Service Center

Cherokee County FSA

300 E. Country Rd.
Columbus, KS 66725
620-429-3360 (phone)
620-429-1567 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

County Committee

Ronald Westervelt
Herb Jarrett
Steve Rider
Kenna Hutto, Advisor

County Committee meets

first Wednesday of the
month, 8 a.m.

Staff

Donna Winter
Patti Roark
Linda White
Rosemary Pillar

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up is underway. Eligible livestock producers affected by a natural disaster, can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.

LIP - .The 2005-2007 LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before Dec. 31, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, catfish, chickens, crawfish, deer, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided upon application showing kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence to support date, location and cause of death.

LCP - Livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2007 may be eligible. Eligible livestock is similar to LIP categories with some differences. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. In Cherokee County, most producers who had cattle on pasture had a high enough pasture loss that providing feed records to support additional feed costs will not be necessary.

No deadline for signup has been announced yet, but livestock producers are asked to call the county office as soon as possible for an appointment to complete an application.

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; or remodeling existing storage facilities.

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.

FINAL LOAN AVAILABILITY DATE

The last day to request 2007 crop year loans on corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers is May 31, 2008.

Owners and operators must have beneficial interest in the commodity at the time of the loan in order to be eligible. In addition, the farm's planted acreage of the crop must have been turned in by the 2007-reporting deadline, or a late-filed acreage report and a reporting fee will be required.

Loan rates may be accessed on line at www.fsa.usda.gov. On the left side of the home page click, "price support" then on the right side of the price support page click "loan rates". Those without internet access or who have additional questions are asked to contact the county office.



**ACREAGE REPORTS
 DUE**

The small grain acreage reporting deadline is May 31. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and preventing planting acreage, can avert the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

For acreage reporting history purposes, failed acreage must be reported before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported early enough that the prevented planting conditions are still present.

Please contact the office for an appointment to turn in your acres

**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.

Dates to Remember	
May 31, 2008	Small grains reporting deadline; last day to request 2007 crop year corn, beans, sunflowers, and milo loans.
June 15	Nominations for Cherokee County FSA Committee begin.
June 18	Election/Farm programs meeting at service center.
August 1	Deadline to report spring seeded crops and CRP; last day to file nomination forms with the service center for the county committee election.

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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.

CRP WEED AND TREE CONTROL

CRP participants are required, within program guidelines, to take effective measures to control both noxious and non noxious weeds. Control measures should be adequate to prevent weeds going to seed and spreading. Tree growth should also be restricted unless the field is enrolled under a practice where trees are permitted. Control measures for both weeds and trees should be applied outside nesting season dates. Please call us if you have questions.

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<p><u>EXTENSION OR NEW FARM PROGRAM ?</u></p> <p>We are waiting to hear what the outcome will be on the farm program choices being made by Congress and the President. We hope to have some details for you soon.</p>
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