



July 2008

Cloud County FSA Office

1501 E 7th Street
Concordia, KS 66901-2652
(785)243-4438
(785)243-3602 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee (COC)

Gary Holbert
Rick Hanson
Randy Lange
Jane Snavelly, Advisor
COC meets the 1st Thursday of the month

Staff

Jolene Kindel, PT
Colleen Larsen, PT
Jana Carlson, PT
Terri Sicard, PT
Wayne Akers, CED

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

Loan Rates

	2008
Wheat	\$3.02
Corn	\$1.97
Soybeans	\$4.89
Oats	\$1.32
Gr. Sorghum (cwt)	\$3.33
Sunflowers (cwt)	\$9.12

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.

Reminders

July 4 – Office closed for Independence Day.

August 1 – Final Election Nomination date

August 15 – Final day to report your other land uses and spring seeded crops. Call the office for an appointment. Due to weather conditions and delayed planting we will have a larger than normal number of farms to process in a short amount of time.

Weekly – Radio information spot every Monday at 6:50 am, 11:50 am, and 5:40 pm on AM 1390 KNCK.

Cloud County FSA News

FSA County Committee Election

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S Department of Agriculture.

The 2008 election for Cloud County Committee will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the north portion of the county. This includes the townships of Grant, Buffalo, Sibley, Lawrence, Elk, and Shirley. The 2008 election process includes the following dates:

- June 15, 2008 Nomination period begins
- August 1, 2008 Final day to file nomination at FSA
- November 3, 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

CCRP ENROLLMENT ON EXPIRING CRP

The Continuous CRP Program (CCRP) allows producers to enroll acreage into practices such as filter strip, windbreak, quail buffer, and Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project at any time. New policy is now present for re-enrolling land under CCRP practices for "EXPIRING" general and continuous CRP practices. The "needs and feasibility criteria" is preserved if the ground is offered for enrollment before June 1 of the year following the year the CRP contract expires. Expired CRP acreage offered for re-enrollment past the June 1 final date to re-enroll would then be considered new land and would need to meet all CRP practice eligibility.

CRP USE FOR LIVESTOCK NEEDS

Signup began June 2, 2008 to allow CRP acreage to be hayed or grazed after the primary nesting season ends (July 15). This designation is approved for the 2008 year only. No CRP rental payment reduction will be assessed. A \$75 processing fee will be charged. All hay or livestock must be removed from CRP before November 10, 2008. If haying, at least 50% of each field is to be left unhayed. If grazing, at least 25% of each field is to be nongrazed or graze the entire field at no more than 75% of the stocking rate.

This action will provide much needed feed and forage at a time field crop prices have advanced to record or near record levels; while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program.

Application must be requested in advance of haying or grazing. Failure to do so will be a contract violation.

CP38E KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRDS

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) is to improve populations of quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, and other grassland associated wildlife. The SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP. To be eligible for SAFE land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements and be cropped in four of six years 1996 thru 2001. Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. Signup for CP38E continues until the acreage goal of 30,100 is met.

Rental rates are based on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the three predominate soils. A one-time signing incentive of \$100 per acre for Contracts of 10 years or more is paid. A one time practice incentive payment is paid for installation costs and practice installation cost share. Producers "re-enrolling expiring CRP" into CP38E will not be eligible for the \$100 Signup Incentive (SIP) or practice installation cost share (PIP).

Maximum Acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields greater than 25 acres, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

Important Reminders

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Timely report all changes to your farming operation as soon as they occur. This includes, for example: Owner, operator, and address changes; Creating a trust, corporation, LLC, or other business; Changes to direct deposit & bank account information; or adding or giving up farmland.

Consider obtaining Level 2

E-Authentication Access. This allows you to perform many functions on-line from your home computer, including filing e-LDPs, enrolling in DCP, checking program payment info, etc. Contact FSA for more information, including handouts and detailed instructions.

Producers with 2008 NAP Coverage must remember to file a "Notice of Loss" **within 15 days** of the date a loss occurred or the damage to a covered crop was apparent.

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan (CPO). This includes controlling noxious and non-noxious weeds.

Conservation Compliance is still required as a requirement for participation in FSA programs. **Any producer considering clearing or bring any land into production that has not had a highly erodible land (HEL) determination will need to request a determination prior to starting the activity.** Failure to do so could result in ineligibility for all program payments. Once the violation has occurred there are very few options. It is very important to know your options and requirements prior to action that has the possibility of placing you in non-compliance status. *Know your options in advance – It's up to you!!!*

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.

New Farm Bill

Limited information has been received about the new farm bill. The bill covers years 2008 through 2012. For 2008 payment rates and basic rules will be the same as 2007. Sign up has started. For participation in the 2008 program all signatures are required to be received by September 30, 2008. Advance payments are available at the 22% payment rate. The balance will be paid in October, 2008. Other provisions of the bill will take effect in 2009. **As in the past, we will be using appointments to process signup.** We will try to accomplish this at the same time as final feed grain reporting.

2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop and Livestock Disaster Programs

Crop Disaster (CDP) – the crop disaster program began last fall, the final date to signup for the program has not been established. The loss year for benefit may be 2005, 2006, or 2007. The second phase of CDP has started. The first phase covered quantity losses. The second phase is for quality losses. In order to qualify for payment, the value of quality-affected production must have been reduced by at least 25 percent compared to its value if the crop had not suffered a quality loss.

Livestock Loss programs – the Livestock Compensation Program allows benefit for producers with excessive grazing losses during 2006. The Livestock Indemnity Program allows benefit for producers with livestock loss during a disaster event in 2005, 2006, or 2007. The above Livestock Loss programs **final date to enroll is July 18, 2008**. If you feel you qualify for benefit and have not signed into the program please do so in the near term.

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 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 (15%) to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount.

TELEVISION CHANGE

On February 19, 2009 all TV broadcasts will go from analog to digital. The governmental Commerce Department will give those who apply two coupons worth \$40 each to buy an analog –to-digital converter box, which can be attached to analog TV's. Contact our office for further information.