



County Committee:

Carolyn Michael, Chairperson
Joe Murphy, Vice-Chairperson
Larry Richard, Member
*(Committee meets 2nd Thursday of each month
at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center)*

US Department of Agriculture

Crawford County FSA Office
207 S. Summit, Girard, KS 66743
Ph: (620) 724-6227
FAX: (620) 724-6201
Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm

MARCH 2008

Judy A. Jacquinot
County Executive Director

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP CONTINUES

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**. Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year**. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.



LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), sign-up opened September 10th. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses starting Jan. 1, 2005, due to a natural disaster. The program has a \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters starting January 1, 2005. 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. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided with the application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event. A producer who applies for benefits under LCP in calendar year 2006 will have their LCP payment reduced by the amount of payment received under the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP).

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOANED GRAIN

If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed, sold or moved.

COMMODITY LOANS



Nine-month commodity loans may be obtained by placing the eligible commodity in approved:

- Farm storage, either requesting a measurement service or certifying the loan quantity on form CCC-666.
- Warehouse storage, obtain a loan on 100% of the net quantity

The 2007 County Loan Rates are:

Wheat: Hard	\$2.94 bushel
Soft	\$2.45 bushel
Corn:	\$2.05 bushel
Grain Sorghum:	\$3.51 cwt.
Soybeans:	\$4.97 bushel

The final availability date to place 2007 Wheat, Oats and Barley under loan is March 31 and May 31 for Corn, Sorghum and Soybeans.



FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS



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

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans 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 cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility 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 for each borrower. Loans in excess of \$50,000 require a real estate lien. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

March 15, 2008 is the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

March 15 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop. In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Interested producers shall contact their local Farm Service Agency at the USDA Service Center prior to the March 15 application closing date to obtain NAP coverage.

FOREIGN INVESTORS 90 DAY REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within **90 days** to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Spouses can sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA farm programs in which either has an interest. This signature authority is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is provided to FSA. For crop loans, an FSA-211 must be on file for spouses to sign for each other.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM



The CRP Continuous Signup offers rental payments and incentive payments for small acreage. Some of the practices include riparian buffers, shelter belts, waterways, filter strips, grassed terraces, shallow water areas and field windbreaks. Contracts are for no less than 10 nor more than 15 years in duration. Maximum rental rates are calculated in advance of enrollment. Eligible land must have been cropped 4 out of 6 years (1996-2001).



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.gov.usda.gov

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local FSA office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A special provision exists that allows the contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method known as "Designation by Landowner" provision must be requested and requires all buyers and sellers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes the signatures of all buyers and sellers. These requests must be made by June 1.



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

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 any arrangements that are needed.



Reporting Crop Acreage

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Programs. Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Acreage reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from FSA Farm Programs, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for which Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is purchased must also be reported. Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm. Producers are required to file reports by **May 31** for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by **August 1**. Producers will also need to provide planting dates. Reports taken after these deadlines are subject to a late-filed fee to cover the cost of a field inspection to verify presence of the crop.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS

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.