



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

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JUNE 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 PROGRAM DEADLINE

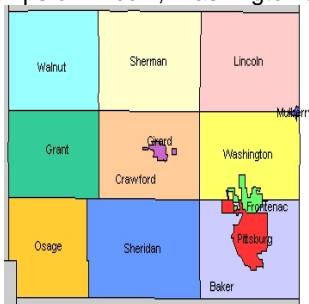
The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP & LIP), sign-up deadline is **July 18, 2008**. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for grazing losses starting Jan. 1, 2005, due to a weather related disasters.

The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered grazing 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 grazing 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 grazing 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). Benefits are based on the number of eligible animals on hand January 1 of the disaster year.

Nominations



Nominations can be made beginning June 15 for a position on the three member Crawford County FSA Committee. Counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAAs). The area holding the election this year is Local Administrative Area 3, which includes the townships of Lincoln, Washington and Baker.



LAA1: Walnut, Grant, Osage
LAA2: Sherman, Crawford, Sheridan
LAA3: Lincoln, Washington, Baker

All currently active farm/ranch owners or operators are eligible to serve on this committee as well as to vote in this election. Individuals may nominate themselves, or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers may also nominate candidates. Nomination form (FSA-669A) is 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.



QUALITY LOSS



The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) also provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007, crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to 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 verifiable production evidence for quality losses. The commodity must have suffered a 25% reduction in value due, to quality.

FSA offices may accept information from producers about quality losses. FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete when all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA.

ACREAGE REPORTS NEEDED



Final Crop Reporting date extended to August 15

File a complete report of crop and land uses by **August 15, 2008**. According to provisions of the new Farm Bill, an annual report of crops and land uses is needed for farm program participation. Due to the delay in announcing the provisions, the reporting deadline was extended. Annual acreage reports will be needed for all farm program benefits which include:

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

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.

Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by August 15. 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.

2008 CRP HAY/GRAZE OPTION

Due to the current "short supply" and "higher cost" of feed situations, the Secretary of Agriculture has made available some CRP acres for haying or grazing. CRP participants can hay or graze certain CRP acreage from July 16 through November 10, 2008. Interested participants must request to modify their CRP contract and obtain a forage management plan. There is no payment reduction, but participants must pay a \$75 fee per CRP contract. Participants must leave at least 50 percent of eligible CRP acreage unharmed for wildlife. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommended stocking rate on 100 percent of the eligible acres or at 100 percent of the stocking rate on 75 percent of the eligible acres. Contact the FSA office as soon as possible if you are interested in haying or grazing your CRP acreage.

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.



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

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. Chemical applications for sericea lespedeza control and Johnsongrass should be accomplished during June. Control should be accomplished before the plants go to seed.



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. Enrollment is continuous. Contact your USDA Service Center for program information.

Farm Reconstitutions

In FSA program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS



BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS & RANCHERS

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000.

Emergency loans are direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are also available through FSA.

More information regarding FSA loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.