



# FSA FARM NEWS

SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



**Douglas County FSA Committee:**  
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**County Committee Meeting Date:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m.

## REPORTING 2008 CROP ACREAGE

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from 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, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 2** for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by **August 1**. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the **June 2** and **August 1** deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit.

## NEED DEBTS REFINANCED OR 2008 OPERATING CREDIT?

Do you have outstanding operating debt or bank debt that needs refinanced? Do you need operating credit for 2008? FSA Farm Loans can help. Low interest rate loans from 3.25% to 3.75% are available. FSA can provide 100% financing. Some of the qualifications for an applicant are: must have sufficient repayment ability; have sufficient loan collateral; and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender. One exception is that FSA cannot refinance real estate debt. These rates are effective for April. Rates are subject to change in May.

If you are a Socially Disadvantaged Persons (SDA) there are reserved loan funds available. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in Ottawa administers farm loan programs for Douglas County producers. Please contact their office at (785) 242-3527 ext 38 or 41 if you have any questions about the programs above or want to make an appointment.



## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for commodities. 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. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office.

## RECORD CHANGES



If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.

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## CRP PRACTICE CP38E NOW AVAILABLE

The Kansas State Farm Service Agency announced approval of the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practice CP38E.

The goal of the SAFE project is to improve populations of bobwhite quail, ringneck pheasant, greater prairie chicken, and other grassland wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. This SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) consisting of diverse native grass and forb cover. Priority will be given to using SAFE to complement local efforts, and project coordinators expect upland birds should respond within the first year of planting. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will also provide water quality and reduce soil erosion.

To be eligible, land must be located anywhere in Kansas. In addition, land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is

cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems may be also be eligible.



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

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. A 50% cost share payment as well as sign up and practice incentive payments are applicable for this practice. In addition, mid-contract management requirements will apply to CP38E enrollments. For more information concerning this program please contact our office at (785) 843-4260.

## FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

FSA is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to keep record of land purchased by persons who are not citizens of the United States. Foreign owners of agricultural land are required to visit a FSA office and report their land on a FSA-153 form. Any foreign person who holds, acquires or transfers an interest in agricultural land and does not submit a FSA-153 is subject to a civil penalty of 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed. Contact your local office for additional information.

## QUICK REMINDERS



- Sign up deadlines for the **Livestock Compensation Program** and the **Crop Disaster Program** have not yet been announced. If you have qualifying losses and want to apply for benefits under these programs or need more information please contact our office.
- In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.
- County committees play a vital role in helping to ensure that FSA agricultural programs adequately serve the needs of county producers. Each year farmers and ranchers elect a member to the county committee. To learn more about the election process and the requirements to nominate or be nominated, come to the USDA Service Center for an informational meeting to be held June 18 at 9:00 a.m.

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