

FSA NEWS

Greenwood/Elk County FSA Office

Ernest Reusser, County Executive Director
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1819 E. River St. Eureka, KS 67045

September/October 2008

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone (620) 583-5544 Fax (620) 583-6236

County Committee normally meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

County Committee Members: Joetta Miller-Chairperson, Kim Boone-Vice-Chairperson, John T Borst -Member,
William J Cannon-Member, Marshall Stauffer-Member



DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) started June 25, 2008 and ends **September 30, 2008**. All producers that share in the DCP payments must sign the CCC-509 by September 30, 2008.

For 2008-crop year, USDA computes direct payments using 85 percent of the farm's base acres times the farm's yield times the direct payment rate. Direct payments provide no incentive to increase production of any certain crop, because the payments are not based on producers' current production choices. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost shares for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in **LAA 1 for Greenwood County** beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 1, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM 2005-2007 (QUALITY LOSSES)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses (as well as quantity losses) from natural disasters and related conditions to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Farmers may apply to receive CDP quality loss benefits by visiting their local FSA service center.

To receive CDP benefits for quality losses, farmers must have:

- had crop insurance or been covered under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred;
- suffered quality losses to an eligible 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop;
- complied with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions for the 2005, 2006 and 2007 crop year; and
- been entitled to an ownership share of the crop.

Producers are eligible for CDP assistance for quality losses of at least 25 percent. All crops are eligible for quality losses except for value loss crops and some specialty crops.

Quality loss payments will be 65 percent of the amount of affected crop (limited to the expected production based on harvested acres) multiplied by 42 percent of the per-unit average market value (based on percentage of the quality loss for the crop).



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Program
December 1st Application Closing Date and Requirements

The deadlines for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept applications under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for 2009 crops have been established by the Kansas State FSA Committee. The application closing date of December 1st applies to the following crops: All Grasses plus Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries & Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Included as eligible crops are floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed).

Interested producers who may wish to participate in the NAP program must visit their local FSA office to complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable sales closing date for the specific crop.

Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county with an \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers.

In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed with the local FSA office within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities including wheat, grain sorghum, 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 bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other 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 \$50,000 and over required a real estate mortgage.

ITEMS OF INTEREST -- REPORT CHANGES IMMEDIATELY

Farm Bill Training for FSA Staff The Greenwood/Elk County FSA Office Staff will be attending Farm Bill Training **October 6-9, 2008** and limited staff with limited resources will be available at that time.

Report changes in your address or operation, and Bank Accounts that affect your FSA payments immediately.

Special Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact our office for arrangements needed.

*****Note: If you believe you received this newsletter in error, or wish to be removed from future mailings, please contact your current Farm Service Agency county office.**

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