



# Jewell County FSA News

June 2008

## Jewell County FSA Office

105 W. South St.  
Mankato, Kansas 66956  
(785)378-3731  
(785)378-3568 – FAX

## Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

Marion Atwood, Chairman  
Beverly Porter, Vice-Chairman  
Roger Kintigh, Member

Mtg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month

## Staff

Kristi Badger Pam Rice  
Patricia Grout Janet Tyler

## Internet web sites

USDA-[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA-[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
FSA Forms-[www.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov)  
NRCS-[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

## 2008 Farm Bill

We have had an eventful several months on the Farm Bill, but we now have a new law. The local offices will be presenting information on the Farm Bill once they are trained on the policy to be implemented. Currently the law is under interpretation as FSA policy is being formed and software prepared. Be patient as FSA at the local level does anticipate the 2008 Farm Program enrollment to begin this summer.

## CRP USE FOR LIVESTOCK NEEDS

Signup begins 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 forage use must be completed no later than 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.

## 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.

## 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 Jewell County Committee will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the west portion of the county. This includes the townships of Highland, Walnut, White Mound, Burr Oak, Esbon, Limestone, Odessa, Ionia, Erving, and Athens. 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

## 2008 CROP ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The final date to certify wheat, barley, and oats is **June 2, 2008.**

The final date to certify corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, and other feed crops is **August 1, 2008.**

**NAP** coverage producers are to be aware that feed crops are required to have the acreage reported 15 days prior to the crop being harvested (alfalfa - May 1<sup>st</sup>).

We are taking acreage reports. We are providing producer maps for you to designate field boundaries, field acreage, and planting dates. Call our office or stop by and we will provide the maps for you to designate 2008 acreage. The information will be loaded in our system and a printout returned to you for review and signature.

The DCP program under the past farm bill required all cropland on the farm to be certified in order to be eligible for DCP benefits. We will wait to see how these regulations are applied to the future 2008 farm bill.

## CRP EARLY PREPARATION

Beginning July 1 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before CRP-1 expiration to prepare a seedbed for "fall" seeded crops. Producers would need to file a request for early destruction and follow an approved conservation plan. No payment reduction will be assessed for the early destruction. The fall seeded crop may be planted prior to October 1.

Producers will be in violation of CRP-1 if the approved participant fails to plant a fall seeded crop in a normal manner, and may result in a refund of CRP annual rental payment, plus interest, and liquidated damages. If mowing or haying is required to adequately prepare a seedbed for fall crops, the acreage may be mowed or hayed July 1 but no commercial use may be made of the forage; a field visit is required to verify destruction of the forage. A producer could also hay as of July 15 under managed haying provisions, if eligible.

CRP participants are permitted to apply chemicals to prepare certain CRP acreage for "spring" seeded crops; otherwise early destruction of the CRP cover by any other means is not permitted prior to the end of the CRP contract period.

## CCRP ENROLLMENT ON EXPIRING CRP

The continuous CRP Program (CCRP) allows producers to enroll at any time, acreage into practices such as filter strip, windbreak, quail buffer, and Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project. New policy is now present for re-enrolling land under CCRP practices for "EXPIRING" general and continuous CRP practices.

In short the new policy will allow producers with expiring CRP to re-enroll all or a portion of the expiring acreage into a Continuous signup practice. The "needs and feasibility criteria" is preserved for the ground being re-enrolled 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.

### DUAL PURPOSE SORGHUM VARIETIES

Certain forage sorghum varieties considered dual purpose are eligible as grain sorghum for acreage credit and LDP benefit based on yield of comparable sorghum in the area. A listing of varieties is available in the FSA office. When certifying the acreage of the crop you would need to provide proof of the variety planted. (Invoice, tag, etc.) This may or may not apply to 2008.

### 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 cropland 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.

### CRP FUTURE AND EXPIRING CONTRACTS

Based on information we are hearing it appears the likelihood of an open large whole field CRP signup is unlikely in the future. Producers in NC Kansas will likely be looking at the CCRP continuous type practices as their source for enrolling into CRP. The new Upland Game Bird practice would be an option but is limiting in the total acreage allowed into CRP.

**CRP Acreage that is expiring** – Once the CRP acreage expires the area will be released from CRP Contract Provisions. One option would be to leave the area as grass. Another option would be to convert the acreage or a portion of the acreage to a cropped field. You would need to identify with FSA the boundary of the field to be cropped. Early in the planning stage, which could be while the acreage is under CRP Contract, you should contact NRCS regarding conversion of the acreage to a crop. **Anyone converting old CRP acreage to a crop will need to visit with NRCS to develop a Conservation Plan of Operation.** In most cases NRCS will need to visit the field to determine whether the conservation practices in place will maintain acceptable soil loss levels. Additional conservation work may need to be placed in the conservation plan. Should additional conservation practices be added to your conservation plan you may begin installing the practices prior to CRP Contract expiration. There will be a substantial amount of acreage expiring from CRP the next few years. It would be wise to plan ahead and work with NRCS prior to the time you would wish to convert the ground to cropland.

### SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the preparation of erosion-prone non-cropland for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are un-authorized practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland to crop production after December 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in FSA farm programs. Before producers clear or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into crop production. If NRCS indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a Conservation Plan of Operation on the affected acreage; prior to harvesting a crop from the land.

Producers are advised to know requirements of the Conservation Plan on existing land or review the plan prior to purchasing or renting cropland acreage to ensure the acreage meets Conservation Compliance rules. Never remove trees along or in a natural drainage without prior consultation with NRCS personnel. The form AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELCL), as well as wetland conservation provisions, will not be violated.

### 2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop and Livestock Disaster Programs

**Crop Disaster** – the crop disaster program began last fall, the final date to signup for the program has not been established. A change to the program is that producers with crop insurance are now allowed to use losses in 2007 as the designated crop loss year for payment if they so chose. The loss year for benefit may be 2005, 2006, or 2007. Most producers have signed up for disaster benefit; if you have not signed up please do so in the near term.

**Livestock Loss programs** – the Livestock Compensation Program allows benefit for producers with excessive grazing losses during 2005, 2006, or 2007.

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.

### *Reminders*

#### **NAP production evidence**

\*\*Producers with losses are to notify FSA within 15 days of the loss.

\*\*Producers who do not have a loss are required to provide production evidence to report and verify 2008 production. The producer is to pay the cost of a field reporter to verify the production in the field. The production must not be fed before reporting to FSA. If production is fed and therefore not verifiable the production is not acceptable as eligible production evidence and will not count towards the APH (actual production history).

Producers are to provide bale counts and weights when reporting production of baled crops. We must have verifiable weights of the bales. *The time to verify production is at the completion of harvest.*

**Record Changes** – If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, you need to report the changes to FSA as soon as possible. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest may lead to potential program ineligibility and damages.

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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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.