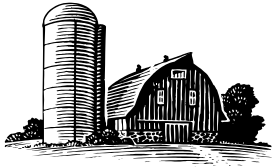




JUNE 2008

# Labette County News



**Labette County FSA**  
115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 437  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5431 phone  
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or  
email at  
[kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov)

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

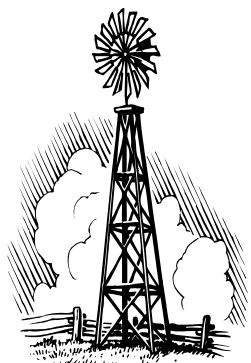
**County Committee:**  
Darlene Ferguson, Chair  
Ken Foster, Vice Chair  
David Dhooghe, Member

County Committee meets  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of  
each month

**Office Staff:**  
Kitra Cooper, CED  
Annetta Henry, PT  
Sally McKinzie, PT  
Dawn Thompson, PT  
Jim Dark, FLM  
Michelle Lynn, FLO

**Field Staff:**  
Leon Pearce  
Trey Thompson

**Food for Thought:**  
"Let us never forget that  
the cultivation of the  
earth is the most impor-  
tant labor of man.  
When tillage begins,  
other arts follow. The  
farmers therefore are  
the founders of civiliza-  
tion."  
--Daniel Webster



## CRP HARVESTING ALLOWED FOR CRITICAL FEED USE IN 2008

Due to the recent and projected record high prices of field crops, USDA will allow certain CRP acreage to be used for critical feed use, such as haying or grazing. CRP participants may request a modification of their current CRP contracts through FSA and hay or graze certain CRP acreage after the nesting period ends on July 15, 2008. CRP payment reductions will NOT apply, although a \$75 administrative fee per contract is required. CRP participants MUST request and receive COC approval for a CRP contract modification on form CRP-1M Addendum through FSA prior to harvest. They may use their CRP acreage for their own feed use or lease the privilege to another individual.

CRP acreage practices eligible in Labette County include CP1, CP2, and CP10, all of which are permanent established stands of grasses and/or legumes. The same CRP acreage can't be both hayed and grazed. Hay must be limited to one cutting and not exceed 50% of each field. CRP grazing can not exceed more than 25% of each field. Hay and cattle both must be removed from the CRP by November 10, 2008, and CRP participants will pay to re-establish any cover destroyed or damaged during the haying or grazing. Participants will be required to identify the field areas to be harvested and obtain a modified CPO, or conservation plan, from NRCS.

Hopefully this will alleviate some of the pressure of buying high-priced feed. Contact the office if you would like to request a modification to your CRP contract.

## LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM ENDS JULY 18, 2008

Although we believe most Labette County livestock producers have filed for their 2005 or 2006 LCP disaster benefits, there may still be a few who have not. Producers have until July 18 to file for this program. Please call the office to make an appointment to file for LCP.

LCP losses are based on 2005 and 2006 federal disaster designation periods. Producers will qualify for one of four disaster periods, based on the number of cattle they owned on the designation's start date. Per-head payments are made for eligible livestock including adult and non-adult beef cattle over 500 lbs, buffalo, sheep, goats, horses used strictly in a livestock operation, and hogs NOT in a confined operation. Documentation is required for livestock numbers, locations of pastures, pasture lease agreements, and expenses for any additional feed produced or purchased during the disaster period.

*The Labette County FSA  
staff wishes everyone a  
safe and smooth harvest!*



## FEED GRAIN REPORTING DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, WHEAT ACREAGE REPORT DEADLINE HAS PASSED

Crop acreage reports are a requirement of participation in most FSA programs, including DCP, CRP, NAP, and Price Support (commodity grain loan) programs. All crops, both planted and perennial, need to be reported. The deadline to report small grains (wheat, barley, and oats) was June 2, 2008. If you missed this deadline, you may still report small grains with a \$45 fee per farm as long as field evidence of the crop still exists. The deadline to report all other crops, especially CRP grass and feed grains such as corn and soybeans, is August 1, 2008. Please call the office for an appointment to make your final 2008 crop acreage report, and be prepared to bring your planting dates. Walk-ins may be taken, but appointments are always given first priority.

## WE HAVE A FARM BILL!

USDA's long-awaited 2008 farm bill, titled The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, has been passed. Although the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program was extended, there are some other significant changes. Procedure has not yet been written, but we have received notices outlining the programs. At the risk of going out on a limb here, I've briefly outlined the changes below. A county-wide information meeting will be held when regulations are announced and prior to sign up.

- 2008 DCP Signup for the 22% advance payment *may* begin by August.
- ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) is a new payment program for 2009. Producers may elect to give up 20% of the direct payment, all CC payments, and take a 30% loan rate reduction in exchange for a revenue insurance payment calculated at 90% of the 2-year season-average price times a 5-year average state yield. This election locks in for the entire length of the farm bill.
- The CRP 6-year cropping history eligibility period has been changed to 2002-2007.
- SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program) is a permanent annual disaster program that will pay producers when they suffer a 60% or greater loss of total farm revenue, based on their established revenue guarantee. Producers must also have purchased FCIC or NAP insurance.
- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation has been reduced from 2.5 million to \$750,000, or \$500,000 for producers with non-farm income. Payment limitations will be attributed directly to individuals, including those who are also members of entities.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 4**—Office closed for Independence Day  
**July 15**—CRP nesting season ends  
**July 16**—CRP Critical Feed Use may begin  
**July 18**—LCP application deadline  
**July 18-20**—Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg  
**July 28-August 2**—Labette County Fair, Oswego  
**August 1**—Final Acreage Reporting date for all crops  
**Sept 1**—Office closed for Labor Day

## LOAN RATES

The 2008 Farm Bill mandates that 2008 and 2009 commodity loan rates and target prices will remain unchanged from 2007. Both will increase beginning with the 2010 crop year. Below are the 2007 rates for Labette County.

Wheat—\$2.95/bushel  
Barley—\$1.75/ bushel  
Oats—\$1.37/bushel  
Corn—\$2.08/bushel  
Soybeans--\$4.97/bushel  
Grain Sorghum--\$3.49/cwt  
Sunflowers--\$7.81/cwt  
Canola--\$7.90/cwt

Rates can also be accessed online at [www.usda.fsa.gov](http://www.usda.fsa.gov). Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."

## SUBMIT 2009 COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS BY AUGUST 1, 2008

Nominations are currently being accepted for the upcoming Labette FSA County Committee election through August 1, 2008. The election will be held by mail in November 2008. Although nomination forms were recently mailed to all producers, the 2009 election is limited to Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, which consists of the following townships: **Osage, Mound Valley, Canada, and Howard**. Any producer who lives in this area and participates in FSA programs can be nominated to run in this election. Nominees must also be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Nominees must sign Form FSA-669A, which must be filed in our office by August 1, 2008, in order to be placed on the ballot. Producers may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. The nomination form may be obtained from our office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. Further guidelines can also be viewed at this website.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA County committees is important to all farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments and yields; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; emergency programs; employing County Executive Directors. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and committee members apply their judgment and knowledge within these regulations to make local decisions.

**DROP BY OUR TENT!** We will be available with information and fun activities at both the Four State Farm Show July 18-20, and at the Farm Bureau Tent at the Labette County Fair on July 29.

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Labette County Conservation District has received funds to assist producers with the cost of installing enduring conservation practices for erosion control through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program. Funding for the Water Resources Cost Share Program is provided by the State Conservation Commission from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. The level of cost sharing will be 50 percent of the actual cost or county average cost, whichever is smaller, on terrace re-builds, waterways, fencing, grass seeding, and ponds; and 70 percent of the actual cost or county average cost on new terraces and top soiling waterways.

Applications for cost share assistance will be accepted at the Labette County Conservation District Office in the Altamont USDA Service Center from June 23—August 31, 2008. Office hours are 8:00am to 3:00pm. Producers who have highly erodible cropland fields needing erosion control practices installed are encouraged to apply for assistance. If funds are still available, a second sign-up period will be held later. There is no fee for technical assistance through the Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Once cost-share funds have been depleted, technical assistance will still be available to landowners wishing to implement conservation practices on their land at their own expense. For more information, contact the Conservation District or the NRCS at (620) 784-5613, ext. 29.



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