

# Lincoln County FSA News



FEBRUARY 2008

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## **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## **Lincoln County FSA Committee**

Nick Biggs, Chairperson  
Dale Rosebrook, Vice-Chairperson  
Damon Vonada, Regular Member  
Marylyn Bell, Advisor  
-Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of month-

## **Shared Management Ends**

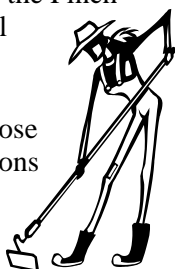
With recent consolidation efforts closing eight FSA offices across Kansas, efforts are being made to end shared management. After serving nearly nine years as the County Executive Director (CED) for both Lincoln County and Ellsworth County, Bill Wineinger now has returned as the full-time CED in Lincoln County. The Ellsworth County FSA Committee hired Michael Martin as their CED.

## **Farm Bill Status**

Most farm programs ended on September 30, 2007, with expiration of the 2002 farm law, although some temporary measures were put in place to continue some programs. At this time, the House of Representatives and Senate have both passed legislation regarding federal farm programs. The next step would be to resolve the differences and then forward a single farm bill that could be approved by Congress and the President.

## **Women in Ag Meeting – March 6**

Women with farming interests (their own or with a spouse, other family member, or entity) are invited to attend a free dinner meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, in the banquet room of the Finch Theatre in Lincoln, KS. Several speakers will have short presentations about farm related activities. Space is limited so those interested should make reservations no later than February 22 by calling the Conservation District at (785) 524-4482 or e-mailing [patricia.winters@ks.nacdn.net](mailto:patricia.winters@ks.nacdn.net)



## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Issues**

--**PRESCRIBED BURNS:** Some CRP participants are required to conduct prescribed burns to meet contract responsibilities, and other CRP producers want to burn CRP to control volunteer trees or for other reasons. Prescribed burns on CRP acres are permitted from FEBRUARY 1 through APRIL 14, and some cost-share funds may be possible for “optional” burns if requested in advance at the FSA office. Prescribed burns with cost-share make the acreage ineligible for “managed” haying or grazing during the year of the burn. Burning CRP is prohibited from APRIL 15 through JULY 15 since it is the primary nesting period for upland birds.

--**NEW CRP OFFERS:** A “general” CRP signup is not anticipated in the near future. However, CRP signup is on-going (at least until MARCH 15) for “continuous” practices such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), contour and terrace grass strips, windbreaks, and quail buffers. Many of these practices offer a \$100 per acre signing incentive up front, and higher cost-share and annual rental payments. The only limited acreage allocation at this time is for quail buffers.

--**NEW CRP SEEDINGS:** Producers with new CRP acreage are encouraged to timely establish required covers. If an acceptable cover crop has been approved, native grass seeding can begin as soon as possible and continue through MAY 15, 2008. CRP participants should contact NRCS or FSA personnel about seeding information.

## **Livestock Disaster Programs**

No signup deadline has been established yet for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

--**LIP:** This program provides assistance for livestock deaths caused by an approved natural disaster. Applicants must provide proof of the livestock deaths and that the deaths were caused by conditions approved under existing disaster designations. Drought is not an eligible disaster event for LIP.

--**LCP:** Most livestock producers in Lincoln County qualify for this program. Under LCP, producers who own or cash-lease eligible livestock can obtain assistance for forage/feed losses and/or additional feed costs resulting from an approved natural disaster. Most LCP applications received to date reflect significant grass pasture losses due to severe drought conditions in 2005 or 2006. To file for LCP, producers should contact the FSA office that handles their farm records and have documentation of their livestock inventory on January 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006. Pasture locations, stocking rates, supplemental feeding information, etc, must also be recorded. An eligible livestock value will be compared with a pasture forage/feed loss value, to determine the LCP payments.



## **2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

Recent disaster legislation has extended CDP assistance to all crops losses which were covered by crop insurance or the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Previously, crop losses in 2007 were limited to eligible crops planted prior to February 28, 2007 (primarily wheat). So, if producers have already filed for CDP assistance and had qualifying crop losses on spring-planted crops in 2007 (such as corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers), they should check with FSA to see if additional benefits may be possible. In general, producers file CDP applications for qualifying crop losses in all years, but are paid only for crop losses in the single year (2005, 2006, or 2007) with the highest benefits. CDP benefits are based on the crop loss information downloaded from crop insurance and records at the FSA office regarding NAP losses.

### Farm Reconstitutions and Transfers

--**Recons:** A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts of land that have the same owner and same operator. The sale of a specific tract within a farm would be an instance that FSA would likely require a farm reconstitution to divide the farm. Farm reconstitutions could also involve combining tracts to create new farms. In either case, farm reconstitutions should be requested by JUNE 1. A special "Landowner Designation" method is available to allow farm program bases to be divided in a manner agreed to by all buyers and sellers. This method should be completed in advance of the land transaction and must be requested in writing including the signatures of all buyers and sellers.

--**Transfers:** Normally, farms are administered in the FSA offices that serve the county where the farm is physically located. However, new procedure now allows a one-time change in the administrative county to a contiguous county if all owners and operators agree and can document that it would be significantly more convenient to conduct business.



### FSA County Committee Election Results

FSA Committee elections were held by mail ballot from November 2 through December 3, 2007. Each year, an election is held to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of the county. This year Damon Vonada was elected for a three-year term.

We appreciate those who voted in the election and those who are willing to serve the farmers and ranchers in their areas. A special THANK YOU to Dale Hlad who served the last three years on the Lincoln County Committee.

### Foreign Land Ownership

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.

### Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, contact Bill Wineinger at the FSA office – Phone: 785-524-4855.

### 2008-Crop Acreage Reports

With farm law still being developed, JUNE 2, 2008, will likely be the deadline to timely file acreage reports for 2008-crop wheat, **oats**, and barley. Most farm operators have already reported their wheat acres, and we encourage others to report by MARCH 15 if possible. FSA measurement services using GPS equipment are available at established costs if you are unsure of your acreage.

### 2007 Loan Deadlines

MARCH 31 is the final date to request commodity loans for 2007-crop wheat, oats, and barley. JUNE 2 is the same deadline for 2007-crop grain sorghum (milo), corn, soybeans, and sunflowers.

### Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

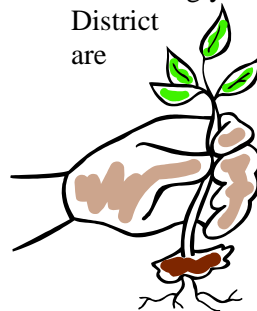
The last sales closing date for 2008 NAP coverage is MARCH 17, which includes sorghum forage and numerous fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The cost is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 for multi-county interests. Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that good record keeping and disaster reporting is required. Producers should discuss the requirements for acceptable production evidence with FSA personnel.

### CCC-1099G Payment Information

Producers should have received their 2007 farm program payment information on form CCC-1099G. Producers should be aware that **refunds** no longer appear on form CCC-1099G. Contact the FSA office if you have questions.

### Tree and Shrub Seedlings Available

Tree/shrub plantings can be used for more than just home or livestock windbreaks. Plantings can be used to create living snow fences, bird/wildlife habitats, reducing wind velocity across cropland, marking property lines, and for barriers to noise or ugly views. The Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) and Kansas Forest Service (KFS) are



taking seedling orders now, and shipping begins in mid-March. More than 30 species are available that have been selected for hardiness in the central plains. Contact the LCCD at 785-524-4482 to obtain more information or access <http://www.kansasforests.org/conservation/>.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

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