



# Lincoln County FSA News



JUNE 2008

## **Lincoln County FSA**

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## **Office Staff**

Bill Wineinger, CED  
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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-

## **New Farm Legislation**

New farm law was enacted on May 22, 2008, covering years 2008-2012. Much more information will be available after federal regulations and program policies and procedures are finalized over the next several months. Stay tuned to local weekly newspaper articles for forthcoming details and deadlines.

## **FSA County Committee Election**

FSA is seeking nominations for the County Committee elections to be held by mail ballot from November 3 through December 1, 2008. Each year, an election is held to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of Lincoln County.

This year, the election will include the townships of Battle Creek, Beaver, Indiana, Marion, Orange, Salt Creek, and Scott. Most farm operators and owners with farming interests in this area are eligible to nominate, be nominated, and hold office, but some exceptions do apply.

FSA-669A nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the FSA office, and must be completed and returned by August 1, 2008. Contact the FSA office for more information about Committee elections and to view an eligible voters list.

## **Direct Deposit (or EFT)**

Farm operators and owners should inform the FSA office immediately about changes in bank accounts, etc., that will affect the direct deposit (electronic funds transfer - EFT) of farm program payments.

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

**--CRITICAL FEED USE:** For 2008 only, USDA announced a new option to hay or graze CRP acreage with established grass stands under specific practices. This “critical feed use” option only requires a \$75 non-refundable administrative fee per contract, a CRP-1M Addendum and modified conservation plan signed by all CRP participants. If approved in advance, haying/grazing may begin July 16 and continue until November 10, 2008. This option is available even if haying or grazing was performed under other options during the last three years, and there are no restrictions on leasing/subleasing or the use of the forage. However, the following rules do apply: The same acreage may be hayed or grazed, but not both. Haying is limited to one cutting, half of each field must be left undisturbed, and bales must be removed by before November 10. Grazing is permitted on all eligible CRP acreage if a reduced stocking rate is used; otherwise, grazing is restricted to 75 percent of the acres. Livestock must be removed before November 10.

**--NEW CP38E PRACTICE:** A “general” CRP signup is not anticipated soon, but CRP offers for “continuous” practices can be accepted at any time. In March, Kansas was approved for only 30,100 acres of a special CP38E wildlife practice which is more flexible than some other practices. First, as long as normal land and producer eligibility conditions are met, any field five (5) acres or less can be enrolled totally. Five acres remains the limit for all fields less than 25 acres, and then 20% is the limit for fields 25 acres or greater. Second, average strip widths can vary from 30 to 200 feet, helping to eliminate “point rows” and to allow for easier farming of adjacent cropland. Similar to most other “continuous” CRP practices (waterways, filter strips, windbreaks, quail buffers), a \$100 per acre signing incentive is paid up front for CP38E, as well as higher cost-share payments. It is a matter of first come – first serve for CRP practices with acreage allocations.

**--CRP REMINDERS:** Producers with CRP acreage are encouraged to timely control noxious weeds (musk thistle, bindweed, johnson grass, sericea lespedeza), varia crownvetch, volunteer trees and shrubs, and other vegetation that prevents or adversely affects grass establishment. Required wildlife food plots should be an adequate size and planted no later than July 1. No commercial use of CRP acreage is permitted.

## **Livestock Disaster Programs**

JULY 18, 2008, is the deadline to apply for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and/or the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). There are no late-filing provisions. Both programs offer coverage for one year of eligible losses during the period 2005 through 2007.

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

**--LCP:** Most livestock producers in Lincoln County can qualify for this program. Under LCP, producers who own or cash-lease eligible livestock on January 1 of a disaster year can obtain assistance for forage/feed losses and/or additional feed costs resulting from an approved natural disaster during the year. 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. Eligible livestock value is compared with a pasture forage/feed loss value, to determine the LCP payments.



**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Lincoln County FSA Office**

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