



August 2008

Marshall County News

USDA Service Center

Marshall County FSA
1133 Pony Express Hwy
Marysville KS 66508
785-562-5343
785-562-5640
www.fsa.usda.gov

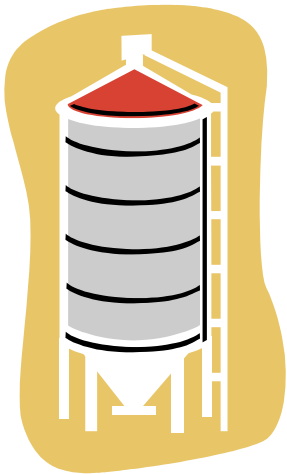
Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Beverly Hedke,
Chairperson
Duane Polson, Vice-
Chairperson
Patricia Sue Grauer,
Regular Member

County Committee meets
Second Thursday of the
month

Office Staff:
Keith E Tilley, CED
Kay McCoy, FLM
Ray Mueting, FLO
Marsha Schell, PT
Jean Merrill, PT
Sarah Lee, PT
Kelly Schotte, PT
Virginia Ratliff, PT
Sue Stultz, Temp

Field Staff:
Dennis Smith



August 15, 2008-Final date to
certify spring seeded crop
acreage and CRP.

ACREAGE REPORTS DUE AUGUST 15, 2008

Report your 2008 spring seeded crops (feed grains, oilseeds, dry beans, alfalfa, hay, feed, etc) and CRP by Aug. 15. This is also the APH production report deadline for non insured crops for 2007. All cropland must be certified on FSA-578 to remain eligible of payments.

2008 FARM PROGRAM SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup is underway for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) now through Sept. 30, 2008. All producers that share in the DCP payments must sign the CCC-509 by Sept 30, 2008.

For 2008-crop year, USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Direct payments provide no incentive to increase production of any certain crop, because the payments are not based on producers' current production choices. Advance payments of 22 percent of the direct payment can be requested to be made as soon as practical after signup. Final direct payments will be made after Oct 1, 2008.

Most of the farm bill changes will become effective in the 2009 crop year. As in past years DCP signup is available online for those of you with an eAuth User ID. If interested, please contact the county office. *Please make your appointment by calling our office at 785-562-5343.*

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operations can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as possible to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes in shares, changes of operator or tenant, changes to your bank account, etc. Report any changes in land ownership and leases. We need a copy of the deed, sales contract or property tax statement to prove land ownership. Also, report any deceased owner's or operators. Notify us of any new or changes in estate, trusts, corporations, partnerships. Limited liability companies, etc. Report changes of address or changes to your bank account number so direct deposits are made to the proper account.

CRP MAINTENANCE

Now is the time to take care of noxious weeds, tree or shrub encroachment and to ensure roads and other prohibited activities area not located on CRP acres. Participants are paid an annual maintenance fee that is included with their annual rental payment to maintain the contract cover. Failure to maintain CRP acres can cause penalties and/or possible contract termination. If you have a grass practice on your CRP contract, all trees contained within the contract area, will have to be removed from the acreage.

A few examples of CRP prohibited uses are asphalt/concrete plants, trash disposal areas, buildings or houses, livestock feed storage, permanent roads/trails, cosmetic mowing, mowing of strips for hunting, oil/gas wells, associated tanks and access roads, and parking or storage of machinery, junked autos, etc.

Remember that your CRP contract PROHIBITS: 1.) mowing hunting lanes; 2.) any mowing for cosmetic purposes; 3.) annual mowing for CRP weed control. You should always contact your local FSA office **before mowing any CRP** to ensure you will stay within the maintenance requirements for your contract.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

Foreign owners of US agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.



MARSHALL COUNTY 2008 COELECTION

FSA accepted nominations until August 1st for candidates who were eligible to serve on the local committee. FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov 3. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 1. The incumbent is Beverly Hedke. **The LAA election covers the following townships: Walnut, Elm Creek, Center, Waterville, Blue Rapids City, Wells, Cottage Hill, Blue Rapids and Bigelow.**

QUALITY LOSS PAYMENTS FOR CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Many producers for quantity loss benefits under the 2005-2007 CDP program. Losses were documented through RMA (crop insurance) information downloaded to the FSA office. A new provision to the CDP program allows benefits to be paid for insured crops that incurred quality losses as a result of natural disaster conditions. Producers who suffered quality losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 and filed a quantity loss application, may qualify for an additional disaster benefit. In order to apply, you must provide documentation of grading factors such as scale tickets, settlement sheets, state grade determinations, etc. Eligibility is determined on a per load basis and you must have suffered at least a 25% monetary loss when compared to the county loan rate for the crop. Applications are currently being accepted. Contact your FSA for more information.

2008 DISASTER PROGRAMS

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance". To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops they produce.

As a result of the sales closing dates being already passed for the 2008 crop year for both insurable and non-insurable crops, a waiver has been authorized, for crop year 2008 only, which allows a producer to pay a buy-in fee to gain eligibility for the supplemental disaster assistance program only. The producer will not have insurance coverage for crop loss under CAT or NAP. The deadline to pay this buy-in fee is Sep 16, 2008. The "buy-in" fee for both CAT and NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP coverage for the 2008 program year. If a producer as already purchased buy up coverage for an insurable crop they will be credited the equivalent of the \$100 CAT fee. Fees may be waived if the producer meets the definition of a socially disadvantaged group, limited resource farmer or rancher, or a beginning farmer or rancher.

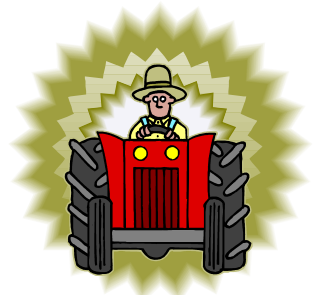


DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 15, 2008 – final date to report spring seeded crop acreage and CRP.

Sep 30, 2008 – final date to signup for 2008 direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

On-going – Continuous CRP, Farm Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans.



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."