



July 2008

Mitchell County News

Mitchell County
USDA Service Center

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

County Committee
Carolyn Finney
Barry McPeak
Jane Wallace

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of Month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff

Marilyn Seehafer PT
Darnell Winkel PT
Debra Stalcup PT
Brenda Hollaway PT
Jamie Powell CED

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County Office Committee (COC) election for this fall will be for the eastern third of the county. Nominations are encouraged from minorities and underrepresented groups and must be filed by August 1. There will be an election informational meeting in the Mitchell County FSA Office on July 30 at 8:00 a.m.

NEW FARM BILL

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 is the new Farm Bill. Most of the new provisions take effect beginning with the 2009 crop year. The 2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical program will be similar to last year's program. There is a new disaster program for 2008 for those that have insurance coverage by August 20; more details of this program will be announced later.

ACREAGE REPORTS

To collect program benefits including loan deficiency payments, crop loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program benefits, and crop history, it is a requirement to report crop acres.

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program requires all cropland on the farm to be certified before program benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, including old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops and fallow acres.

The final date to certify corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, feed crops and fallow acres is August 1. Crops covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing takes place.

If you have not reported your fall crop acres, do so as soon as possible. In the past, as a courtesy, we have sent out reminders for acreage reporting. With our tight budget and increased workload, we most likely will not send out reminders. Therefore, it will be the operator's responsibility to remember to timely file crop acreage certifications.

2008 DCP PROGRAM

Signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway. The 2008 program will be very similar to the 2007 DCP program with 85% of the base eligible for direct payments. Shares of payments must follow the share and risk of planted crops as in the past.

Farms with base acres of 10 acres or less will not receive direct or counter-cyclical payments, unless the farm is wholly owned by socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmers or ranchers.

The power of attorney form used for the last Farm Bill will not be valid for the new program in most cases, unless the power of attorney form filed has all current and future programs checked **and** authorization was given to certify for the Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

Signup for the 2008 DCP program ends September 30. All signatures must be in the office by close of business on September 30. Late filed provisions do not apply.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up ends July 18. Eligible ranchers and livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster.

Livestock Compensation Program

(LCP): Covers grazing losses, due to natural disasters for Crop Years 05, 06, and 2007 - Most producers in Mitchell County will be dealing with crop year 2006 grazing losses.

You will need to know the number of livestock owned on January 1, 2006 that were intended to be put on pastures for the 2006 grazing season of May 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006. **PROOF OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS IS REQUIRED.** *Some items to verify numbers could be: calf sales receipts, bank asset ledgers or financial statements, or veterinary records.*

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

Covers livestock deaths due to natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and Dec. 31 2007; including deaths due the ice and snow storm that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

PROOF OF LIVESTOCK DEATHS IS

REQUIRED. *Some items to verify deaths could be: dead wagon receipts, veterinary records, or 3rd party verification.*

CROP DISASTER QUALITY LOSS

In addition to the quantity loss portion of the Crop Disaster Program, producers may be eligible for quality loss payments for the same years.

There are three thresholds that must be met to qualify for a crop disaster quality loss. They are: 1) Economic loss, 2) Quality loss based on grade and discount factors, 3) Quality loss that was not already compensated by crop insurance. You must have had a 25 percent loss in price received compared to the state committee price set for each commodity or price established through a marketing contract to meet an economic loss.

To apply, you must provide all production evidence for the unit including the price received, and you must have it sorted by crop insurance unit

Non-Insured Assistance Program

Producers in the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) for 2008 must report any loss in production within 15 days of the date of loss. With drought, a loss may not be known until harvest, so you would have 15 days after harvest to report a loss.

Acres must be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing takes place. If you applied for coverage on forage sorghum, you must report the acres immediately after planting.

Those who have NAP must provide verifiable production evidence for the covered crop to remain eligible for the disaster payment. If the production will be fed, an FSA measurement is required and sample bale weights.

2008 Loan Rates

The 2008 loan rates for Mitchell County are Wheat - \$3.02/bu., Corn - \$1.91/bu., Sorghum – \$3.34 /cwt, Soybeans - \$4.86/bu., and Sunflowers - \$9.19 /cwt. Other oilseed rates are also available.

CRP HAYING AND GRAZING

For 2008 only, there are two options for haying or grazing CRP acres. The regular managed haying or grazing that can be utilized once every three years on contracts that have used it in the past, and the new Critical Feed Use CRP haying or grazing.

Managed haying or grazing requires a 25% reduction in the annual rental payment. It is only applicable to acreage that has not been hayed or grazed in the last two years, but an entire field could be hayed if not hayed or grazed in 2006 or 2007. Haying must be completed by August 15 and the bales removed by September 15. Grazing must be completed by the earlier of November 12 or the grass reaching the minimum height.

Critical Feed Use haying or grazing required a \$75 per contract payment up front, no reduction in rental payment. It doesn't matter if the acreage was hayed or grazed in the past. 50% of **each** field must be left un-hayed; fields can not be combined even if adjoining, to get around this requirement. Haying must be completed and bales removed by November 10. Grazing must end by the earlier of November 10 or the grass reaching the minimum height. Haying or grazing can not occur within 120 feet of a stream or water body.

In either option, haying or grazing can not begin until the later of (1) notification of application approval or (2) July 16. Also, all contract participants must sign the request application and the revised conservation plan. Haying and grazing can not occur on the same acreage.

The grass must be fully established and continuous practices (filters and buffers) can't be hayed or grazed. Only one cutting is allowed.

Food plots and inter-seeded areas are not eligible for haying or grazing.

Reminders

	All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known.
	Contact FSA before breaking land, removing tree areas, removing field boundaries removing farm stored loan grain or planting any crop that might be a fruit or vegetable on contract acreage.
	Check your CRP Plan of operations and remember to get food plots planted if they are in your plan.
	Weeds/trees must be controlled on Conservation Reserve acres.
July 18	LCP and LIP signup ends
August 1	Last day to report fall crops.
Sept. 1	Office Closed
Sept. 30	DCP Signup ends
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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