

MORTON COUNTY FSA AG REPORT

Morton County FSA Office
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Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

July 2008

County Committee Members

Bob Davis, Chairperson
Byron Smith, Vice Chairperson
John Milburn, Member
Donita Hayes, Advisor

The Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1:00 p.m.

Office Staff: Jennifer Sensley, CED
Dorothy Horton, PT
Traci O'Hanlon, PT

New County Executive Director In The Office

A familiar face has returned to the Morton County FSA Office with a new title. Jennifer Sensley joined the staff as County Executive Director (CED) on June 9, 2008. Jennifer has worked for the Farm Service Agency since April of 1999 and has recently completed a 9-month training program in order to become a CED. Jennifer spent 3 months training in Iola, Allen County, and the next 3 months in Oakley, Logan County and the last 3 months in Clay Center, Clay County. Please feel free to contact Jennifer at any time to discuss issues or concerns facing Morton County producers.

SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR LCP AND LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock losses or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

For more information please contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, grain sorghum, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loans \$50,000 and over required a real estate mortgage.

CRP Haying and Grazing in 2008

CRP participants can hay or graze certain CRP acreage from July 16 through November 10, 2008. Interested participants must request to modify their CRP contract and obtain a forage management plan. There is no payment reduction, but participants must pay a \$75 fee per CRP contract. Participants must leave at least 50 percent of eligible CRP acreage unhayed for wildlife. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommended stocking rate on 100 percent of the eligible acres or at 100 percent of the stocking rate on 75 percent of the eligible acres. Contact the FSA office as soon as possible if you are interested in haying or grazing your CRP acreage.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008

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|---|--------|
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 3.125% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 4.875% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.50% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans | 3.375% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 3.00% |

Foreign Investors 90-Day Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U.S. 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 civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.



BANKING CHANGES?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS "FSA COUNTS ON YOU"

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

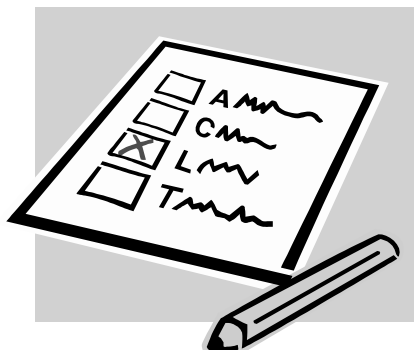
Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Nominations- Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008.

Morton County producers who are residents in LAA 2 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee this coming term. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008.



CROP REPORTING

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for spring seeded crops and CRP has been extended for this year only to August 15.

NAP acreages must be reported by August 1 or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing. Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



MAINTAINING CRP COVER

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.

Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Kansas is April 15 through July 15.