

Osage County Ag Wire

Newsletter of the USDA Service Center in Lyndon Kansas:
Farm Service Agency - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Osage Conservation District

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday May 2008

Quick Reference Guide

SERVICE CENTER PHONE	(785) 828-4631
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PHONE	(785) 828-3458
FAX	(785) 828-3716
ADDRESS	115 West 17 th Lyndon, KS 66451-9561
E-MAIL	brandon.wilson@ks.usda.gov



Mark Your Calendar

May 26 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

June 2 – Last day for small grain certification

July 4 – Independence Day – Office Closed

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different agricultural land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at the FSA county office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated.

Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in any farm programs.

Low Interest Rate on Grain Bin Construction and Rehabilitation

With planting season at hand, crop farmers may be considering building or replacing grain storage for next fall's harvest. USDA now offers Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) that are available to purchase and install eligible grain storage facilities, drying and handling equipment or to remodel existing facilities. May interest rate for the FSFL program is 3.000%.

Small Grain Certification

FSA is certifying 2008 planted wheat, oats, triticale and barley. The deadline for certifying these crops is June 2, 2008. FSA also reminds producers that CRP acres are required to be certified annually. Please call the office to schedule an appointment to certify your small grains and CRP.

New CRP Practice for Crop Producers

A new CRP practice has been announced that will allow producers to seed down low production areas in their fields to native grass. Producers can choose to farm the best and seed down the rest. Areas that producers may consider seeding down to grass include rocky areas, small fields and hard to farm areas. The intent of this practice is to provide habitat for upland game birds. Acres may be enrolled anywhere within the cropped field.

The shape of enrolled acres is not limited to strips. Participants are paid a signing incentive payment, a practice incentive payment and an annual per acre rental payment for 10 or 15 years.

Drills

The Conservation District has two Great Plains grass drills for rent. These are great for seeding native grass, brome, fescue, alfalfa or other types of grasses. These drills rent for \$10 an acre with a \$100 minimum. The district also has two John Deere 1590 no-till drills for rent. These drills rent for \$7 an acre and can drill corn, milo, soybeans and wheat. If you are interested, call the Conservation District office at 785-828-3458 and your name will be added to the waiting list.

Need Debts Refinanced or 2008 Operating Credit?

Do you have outstanding operating debt or bank debt that needs refinanced? Do you need operating credit for 2008? FSA Farm Loans can help. Low interest rate loans from 3.125% to 3.75% are available. FSA can provide 100% financing. One exception is that FSA cannot refinance real estate debt. These rates are effective for May. Rates are subject to change in June. If you are a Socially Disadvantaged Person (SDA) there are reserved loan funds available.

Please contact the Ottawa FSA office at 785-242-3527 if you have any questions about loan programs.

Cost Share

The Conservation District will take applications for cost share assistance through June 30, 2008. New projects such as terraces, waterways, water well plugging, cross fencing, household waste lagoons, and many others are eligible for funding. Applications are funded based on water quality issues. Eligibility requirements apply to all projects. For more information contact the Conservation District office at 785-828-3458.

Conservation Compliance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducts conservation compliance reviews every May. Highly Erodible Land (HEL), wetland determinations, conservation application and maintenance are reviewed. In addition to these items, ground that is "broke out" is evaluated for sod busting violations. The recent price increase in commodities has tempted producers to look at farming more areas. Producers are reminded to contact FSA and get a compliance determination before breaking out any grass. Conservation Compliance rules have strict soil erosion control requirements that must be followed if farmers want to remain eligible for farm program benefits.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Osage County Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.