



March 2008

Reno County FSA
18 East 7th
South Hutchinson, KS 67505
(620) 669-8161- Phone
(620) 669-5496 – Fax

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee
Myron Miller, Chairperson
Ed Thayer, Vice Chair
MaryAnn Strohl, Member

Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff:

Farm Programs

Gwen Brown – PT
Bobbie Koontz - PT
Shirley Nelson – PT
Elizabeth Welty – PT
Clara Yoder – PT
Katy Sotomayor –PT
Audrey Johns - TPT
Connie Pohl – TPT
Aaron Fall - CED

Farm Loans

Katie Johnson – PT
Haley Eck – PT
Sheri Grinstead - FLO
Ray Bartholomew – FLM

Internet Web Sites

USDA – www.usda.gov
FSA – www.fsa.usda.gov
NRCS – www.nrcs.usda.gov

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations! MaryAnn Strohl was elected to serve a 3 year term on the Reno County Committee. MaryAnn will be representing the producers in Local Administrative Area 2, which is the central portion of the county.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.

Remember to Report Wheat Acres

The office is currently scheduling appointments for acreage reports. Please remember to make an appointment to report your wheat and small grain acres before the May 31 deadline.



Reno County FSA News

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

This program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by eligible natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Applications must be accompanied by documents showing evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and the location of livestock at the time of death.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed/pasture losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from eligible natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007 for Reno County.

Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. An eligible producer must have owned or cash-leased the eligible livestock, and suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased feed stuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster condition. The feed lost, or additional incurred feed cost must have been intended for use with the eligible livestock.

How to apply: To apply for LCP, you will need to provide our office with the following information: 1) Location of the eligible livestock on January 1 of the applicable year. 2) Certify the number of head of each category at that location on January 1 of the applicable year. 3) Certify the location of the herd today. 4) Identify the location of pasture grazed during the grazing period. 5) Certify the percent of grazing loss incurred on the pasture during the grazing period. 6) Certify cause of grazing loss. 7) Provide our office with a written cash pasture lease, or have the pasture owner sign a statement to the terms of your cash pasture lease.

Disaster Sign-Up Continues

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP sign-up** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007.**

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before December 31, 2007. This excludes crops planted in the 2007 crop year intended for harvest in 2008, such as winter wheat and canola. The intent is to capture all crops that may have suffered a loss between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year.** Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

If you wish to apply for the CDP program, please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

CRP CRP CRP CRP CRP CRP CRP CRP

Managing CRP Cover

All CRP participants with contracts that became effective beginning with signup 26 (2004) and later were required to perform certain management activities as part of their approved conservation plan. The required management practice was scheduled in the conservation plan before the end of year 6 for 10 year contracts. This means there will be many of these contracts that will require the management practice to be completed over the next few years. Some contracts must have this management activity completed this spring.

As a CRP participant, it is recommended that you review your Conservation Plan of Operations to determine which year the management practice is to be completed and make plans accordingly. Failure to timely complete the management practice could result in a contract violation.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed, sold or moved.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any kind of dirt work.



Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-Up

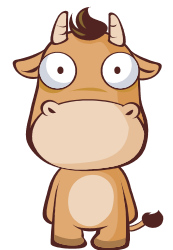
Dairy producers that commercially marketed milk in the U.S. between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 and suffered production losses attributed to a declared natural disaster may be eligible for payments under DDAP-III.

Producers must provide proof of the average number of cows in the dairy herd and annual milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the dairy operation during years of the base period of 2003 and 2004 calendar years. To determine the total pounds of eligible losses, producers must also provide the dairy herd numbers and production marketed for the applicable disaster years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Losses must correspond with an applicable disaster declaration for the county. Adequate proof of production is required from the dairy operation's milk handler or marketing cooperative.

FSA will base loss calculations on comparing the expected base annual production and the actual production during the disaster year. FSA may adjust calculations for losses not caused by the disaster. Payments are based on the annual average Mailbox milk price for the Marketing Order for the applicable State for the applicable disaster year.

Only \$16 million was provided for this program nationwide; therefore, payments will not be issued until after the sign-up deadline and FSA determines if payments will be factored.

Sign-up for DDAP-III ends on May 5, 2008, that gives dairy producers a limited time to apply for benefits under this program. Dairy producers interested in applying for the DDAP-III program should contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment.



Loans for Beginning, Small, and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Reporting Farm Changes

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a *change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm*; a *change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares*; a *change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management*; and a *change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.*