



RICE County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

FEBRUARY 2008

RICE County FSA

1480 W US HWY 56, RM 101
Lyons, Ks 67554-9209
TEL: (620) 257-5184
FAX: (620) 257-5653

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Farm Loan Programs:
By appointment for Rice County visits:
(620) 669-8161

County Committee

Mary Lou Bush, Chairperson
Howard M Behnke, Vice-Chairperson
Mark A Engelland, Member
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Rodney Ackerman, CED
Judy Borgen, Program Technician
Tammy Clark, Program Technician
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician
Margaret Chain, Program Technician
Shelley Peverley, Temporary PT
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2007
Wheat	\$2.95/bu
Corn	\$1.99/bu
Soybeans	\$4.89/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.31/cwt
Sunflowers	\$8.32/cwt
Barley	\$1.85/bu

RECORD CHANGES

If you have **bought, sold, or ARE renting different land**, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

February 18 –Office Closed Presidents Day

March 15 – Application deadline for 2008 NAP crops: course grains, vegetable and melon crops, Amaranth, Chestnuts, Cotton, Pecans, Pumpkins, Safflower, Sesame, Squash, and Walnuts

March 31 – is the final date to request a 2007 loan and/or LDP on wheat, oats and/or barley

June 2 – Final date to report wheat, barley and oats acreages.

June 2 – is the final date to request a 2007 loan and/or LDP on corn, milo, soybeans and/or sunflowers.

Disaster Program Sign-up Continues.....

with a change



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**. Previously, losses were only eligible for crops planted before Feb. 28, 2007. **This date has been changed to December 31, 2007.** Therefore, all 2007 crops (wheat and feed grains) are eligible for disaster. 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.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

We are taking appointments for livestock producers who suffered pasture losses directly associated from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers located in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial or presidential disaster areas during the time periods listed above are eligible to apply. Rice County did have designations in 2005 and 2006.

Livestock producers incurring losses in more than 1 year may only receive assistance for one year. Eligible livestock **must have been owned** on the start date of the disaster designation. A recent change now allows producers to file on their livestock that were in one county on January 1 and subsequently moved to another county for the grazing period. The grazing loss will be figured using the percent of loss for the county in which the livestock were actually grazed.

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. Livestock in confined feeding operations (**commercial or private**), as of the beginning date of the disaster designation, are not eligible for LCP.

Some basic information needed for applications is as follows:

- 1) Type of cattle operation (i.e. cow/calf, feeder, etc...).
- 2) Number of livestock owned **on January 1, 2005 or 2006** that were intended to be put on pastures for the 2005 or 2006 grazing season. Were any culled or were any replacements purchased?
- 3) **PROOF OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS NEEDED:** previous years calf sales, bank asset ledgers, taxes, veterinarian bills, diaries or personal record keeping items.
- 4) Pasture locations. Legal descriptions, stocking rates and lease terms are needed. Signed lease agreements (between the owner and tenant) must be provided on all leased pastures that we do not list you as the tenant. The terms and conditions must be listed in the agreement. We do not need the dollar figure, just the terms. (ie...acres, cash or a fixed amount).

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers, **for livestock deaths** that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Those incurring losses in more than 1 year may receive assistance for only one year. We are now taking appointments for applications. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, catfish, chickens, crawfish, deer, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Eligible livestock for contract growers includes poultry and swine.

Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

REMINDERS

RECONSTITUTIONS

To be effective for 2008, farm combinations and divisions must be requested no later than **August 1, 2008**.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE CHARGES

The current charge is a minimum of \$46 for the first hour, plus \$8 for each additional half hour. This charge will be applied on a per farm basis.

CLEARING LAND OR ALTERING WETLANDS

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. Then NRCS will determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for our programs and other USDA programs. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for our programs

Changing Banks

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 important to keep the county office 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 uninterrupted service.

Acreege Reports now being taken....

We are now scheduling appointments for wheat, barley and oats acreage certification. As in 2007, we will be certifying entirely with GIS mapping. Again, it appears computer problems with the WEB still exist. The process can be very slow, so be prepared for a longer stay in the office. **The final date to certify wheat, barley and oats is June 2, 2008.** The final date for feedgrains, fallow, CRP and all other crops is **August 1, 2008.**

Producers with 2007 NAP crops must certify acreage 15 days prior to: grazing pasture (mid April), or 15 days prior to haying the crop (alfalfa, brome/early May). **PLEASE CALL** to schedule your appointment.

FARM BILL ???????

As of the end of January 2008 we have not heard or seen any rules and/or regulations on a new farm bill. We will let you know as soon as we receive any information.

FAILED ACREAGE CREDIT

Producers who consider destroying a crop that has failed because of disaster related conditions should request failed acreage credit, within 15 days from the date of disaster, by filing form CCC-576. The request must be filed before the disposition of the crop and the affected acreage must be reported as failed acreage. There are no provisions for late filing a CCC-576.

The CCC-576 will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available. If the crop will be taken to harvest you will not need to file form FSA-576 with our office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

LAA #2 in Rice County held an election in December 2007, for a County Committee member. Mark A Engelland was re-elected to a three-year term.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA Office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.