



RICE County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

OCTOBER 2008

RICE County FSA

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



FARM BILL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

We have scheduled two informational meetings to discuss the new 2008 Farm Bill. The meetings will be held at the Rice County Extension Building, 701 E Main, Lyons Kansas. The dates and times are as follows:

November 4, 2008 @ 7:00 PM

November 5, 2008 @ 2:00 PM

The new programs appear to be very complex. Therefore, we strongly urge you to attend one of these meetings.

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 Behnke, Vice-Chairperson
Mark 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
SueAnn Peter, Temporary PT
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The new Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) includes the following Disaster Assistance Programs:

- 1 - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP).
- 2 - Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).
- 3 - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).
- 4 - Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE).
- 5 - Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

SURE will cover crop production losses, LFP will cover grazing loss, and LIP will cover livestock death loss due to an eligible disaster.

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for **ALL** insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops they produce. All crops in Rice County can be covered by either insurance or NAP (including all forage crops such as alfalfa, small grass areas or waterways certified as forage, double-cropped acres, etc...).

To qualify for SURE the county must have a Secretarial Disaster Designation (or be contiguous to a county that does) or a producer will qualify if there is greater than 50% production losses on their FARM ("FARM" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer).

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2008
Wheat	\$3.05/bu
Corn	\$1.99/bu
Soybeans	\$4.90/bu
Oats	\$1.35/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.31/cwt
Sunflowers	\$9.12/cwt
Barley	\$1.85/bu

RECORD CHANGES

Owner/Operator changes such as: **newly purchased land, land sales, deceased individuals, or are renting different land**, make sure to 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

November 4 – Informational meeting on the 2008 Farm Bill. 7:00 PM at the Rice County Extension Building, Lyons Kansas.

November 5 – Informational meeting on the 2008 Farm Bill. 2:00 PM at the Rice County Extension Building, Lyons Kansas.

Nov 11 – Closed for Veterans Day

Nov 27 – Closed for Thanksgiving

December 1 – Final Date to return ballots.

December 25 – Closed for Christmas

January 1 – Office Closed New Years Day

On-going – Continuous CRP, Farm Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans.

FINAL 2008 DIRECT PAYMENTS

We have processed and mailed the "Final" Direct Payments under the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP). These were processed on October 6. If an advance payment was requested at signup you received 22% of the payment rate, the remaining 78% has now been paid.

2009 NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

For 2009 the NAP fee has increased to \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per county or a total amount of \$1,875 per person.

Deadlines to purchase NAP coverage for 2009:

December 1, 2008 for small grains for grazing or forage (hay) this includes wheat, barley and triticale, alfalfa, oats forage (hay), and grass for grazing or forage.

March 15, 2009 for forage sorghum cane for grazing or forage, double-cropped crops, etc...

Remember you must have NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops you have in order to be eligible for the Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Programs included in the new Farm Bill.

Your crop production must be reported to FSA even if you do not file a notice of loss. Accurate and detailed crop production records are a must, and need to be kept for the current year and the prior 3 years.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots will be mailed to voters in LAA-3 (Galt, Odessa, Mitchell, Union, Wilson, Rockville and East Washington townships) in early November. Margaret Scheufler, Eric Kratzer and Phil Knight are the candidates for this year's election. **Please take the time to vote and return your ballot.** Ballots must be returned to FSA or postmarked no later than December 1st. Voting by PROXY/POA is prohibited. Remember to sign the ballot. Unsigned ballots are invalid and are not tabulated.

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.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant such as marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

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 accommodations 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.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Conduct Your USDA Business On-Line

If you have access to the Internet and have an e-mail account you can obtain an e-Authentication Level 2 Account and conduct some of your USDA business on-line. Access www.fsa.usda.gov, then click on "Online Services" at the top of the page. Instructions are provided on how to obtain a Level 2 eAuth account. Once the account is set up, you can access eLDP, eDCP, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry, eForms, and eRepresentative. Obtain more information and a brochure at your local FSA office.

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in South Hutchinson has scheduled the 2nd Thursday of each month to be here in the Rice Co FSA Office to answer questions regarding FSA Farm Loan Programs and what is available.

However, please contact their office at 620-669-8161 to make an appointment. They will also be able to assist current borrowers with questions they may have.

The office staff consists of: Ray Bartholomew, Farm Loan Manager; Sheri Grinstead, Farm Loan Officer; Haley Eck, Program Technician; and Katie Johnson, Program Technician.



"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 a 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."