

JUNE & JULY 2008

Lance H. Thompson, CED

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Shawnee County FSA Office

3231 SW Van Buren, Ste 1
Topeka, KS 66611-2291

Phone: (785) 266-9053

FAX: (785) 266-8293

County Committee

Arthur N Warner

Gregory J Meier

Carol A Marple

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month
@ 9:00 a.m.

Office Staff

Linda Wohlgemuth

Nicole Welborn

Kellen Liebsch

Kathy Allison

Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaches

Acreage reporting time is just around the corner. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, will prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

The final date to report CRP, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and silage/hay crops is August 1. This also includes any double cropped acreage that you need to report. Any crop report taken after August 1 will be considered late filed and will be charged a late filed rate of \$46.00 per farm. Please call the Shawnee County FSA office to make your appointment to certify all acreages on your farm(s) by the deadline.

Farm Record and Ownership Review in our office

Our office is currently conducting a major review of farm ownership records in Shawnee County. This review is necessary for FSA to determine and ascertain current and accurate ownership records of all land on record with our office. As a reminder, farm and ownership records must be maintained in order to avoid possible program ineligibility and/or fines. It is imperative that our office be provided with all changes before or as soon after they occur as possible. This notification pertains, but is not limited to, individuals who have established and operate land under a trust. All individuals who own or operate land held by a trust are required to provide documentation of the trust to our office. If there are any questions about the documentation being requested or you need to inform our office of a change, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Please note that verification of ownership on all land must occur before we can certify your 2008 spring and fall crops. This will give us the opportunity to make all necessary changes and complete all required farm and tract reconstitutions. **Because of this review, it is imperative to make an appointment with our office in order to certify your crops for 2008.**

Commodity Loan Rates

Commodity	Price
Wheat	\$3.02/bu
Corn	\$1.99/bu
Soybeans	\$5.05/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$3.53/cwt
Oats	\$1.37/bu

Shawnee County 2008 COC Election

FSA is accepting nominations until August 1st for candidates who are eligible to serve on the local committee. Almost anyone participating or cooperating in an FSA program, who is of legal voting age and lives in the county's local administrative area, that the election is being held are eligible to be nominated. **This year's election covers the following townships: Rossville, Grove, Silver Lake, Dover, Mission and Topeka.**



Visit our website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov



Mark Your Calendar

June 2 – Last day to certify wheat, oat, barley, and triticale crops without penalty fee.

June 2 - Final Date to request commodity loans for 2007 corn, grain sorghum, soybean and sunflower crops.

June 15 – Nominations begins for COC Election.

July 4 – Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday.

July 18 – Sign Up Deadline for LCP and LIP (Nation Wide)

August 1 – Final date to certify corn, grain sorghum, soybean, CRP, and NAP crops without penalty fee.

August 1 – Nominations end for 2008 COC Election.

Ongoing Activities in Office

Crop Disaster Program Sign Up, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Farm Loan Program & Rural Youth Loan Sign Up.

Call our office for an appointment to serve you better!

CRP Maintenance Reminders- Important!

Last year our office completed a number of compliance reviews on CRP acreage. Common items found during the reviews were the presence of invasive trees and undesirable weeds, like *Sericea Lespedeza*, different types of thistles and Johnson grass. Participants are paid an annual maintenance fee that is included with their annual rental payment to maintain the contract cover. Failure to maintain CRP acres can cause penalties and/or possible contract termination. If you have a grass practice on your CRP contract, all trees contained within the contract area, will have to be removed from the acreage. If you have any questions about controlling noxious weeds like *Sericea Lespedeza*, please contact the Director of the Shawnee County Weed Department, John Kabus at (785) 232-0120.

Conservation Reserve Program – Critical Feed Use

Shawnee County CRP participants may request a voluntary modification to their CRP contract beginning June 2, 2008 at the Shawnee County FSA Office. CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying and grazing. The critical feed use modification to the CRP contract will limit the scope, frequency and duration of haying and grazing. To ensure protection of the resources, critical feed use is not authorized during the primary bird nesting or brood-rearing season. The more environmentally sensitive land, such as land within 120 foot of a stream or water source, will not be eligible for haying and grazing and must be left undisturbed. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008 after the primary nesting season ends through November 10, 2008.

Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to CP 2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and CP 10, Vegetative Cover – Grass Already Established. No more than 50 percent of the eligible CRP acreage may be used for haying. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the 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. No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. Producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75.00 for the modification of their CRP contract.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.