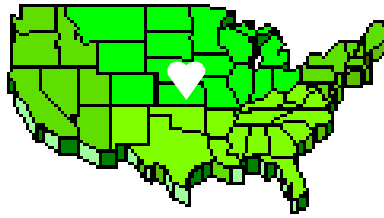




FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM
SERVICE
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office
319 Roger Barta Way
Smith Center, KS 66967

COUNTY COMMITTEE:
Mary Arment CHAIRPERSON
Robert Koops, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Darin Hawkins, MEMBER

Cary J. Tucker
County Executive Director

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

FROM THE HEART OF THE USA

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

July 2008

CRITICAL USE HAYING AND GRAZING OF CRP ACREAGE

Haying and grazing of CRP acreage is allowed this year under one of two options, either Critical Feed Use or Managed Haying and Grazing. There is no waiting period for the Critical Feed Use option, all eligible CRP contracts can use this even if hayed or grazed last year.

	<u>Critical Feed Use</u>	<u>Managed Haying and Grazing</u>
Cost:	\$75 per contract, no matter the acreage	25% of annual rental rate per acre
Allowed Acreage:	50 percent hayed only of each FIELD	Depends on prior year's usage

Beginning date for haying or grazing is July 16 for both options.
There are other similarities and differences between the two options. Check with our office for details.

Applicable forms must be completed and approval received prior to any haying or grazing activity beginning.

2008 Farm Program Signup DCP, Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)

Signup has begun. Advance payments of 22% may be requested for July, August, or September. Final payments will be issued in October.

The deadline to sign up is September 30, 2008; all signatures must be returned to the FSA office by this date. We will be taking signup for DCP at the same time you report your acreage.

The DCP has a standing 3 billion dollar disaster program. Producers who do not have 2008 Federal Crop Insurance or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage and have sustained at least a 50 percent loss may enroll and pay an administrative fee to be covered under 2008 disaster provisions. Watch for additional details as made available.

CP38E KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRDS

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) is to improve populations of quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, and other grassland associated wildlife. The SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP. To be eligible for SAFE land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements and be cropland in four of six years 1996 thru 2001. Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. Signup for CP38E continues until the acreage goal of 30,100 is met.

Rental rates are based on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the three predominate soils. A one-time signing incentive of \$100 per acre for Contracts of 10 years or more is paid. A one time practice incentive payment is paid for installation costs and practice installation cost share. Producers "re-enrolling expiring CRP" into CP38E will not be eligible for the \$100 Signup Incentive (SIP) or practice installation cost share (PIP).

Maximum Acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields greater than 25 acres, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

CCRP ENROLLMENT ON EXPIRING CRP

The continuous CRP Program (CCRP) allows producers to enroll, at any time, acreage into practices such as filter strips, windbreaks, quail buffers, and the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project described above. New policy is now present for re-enrolling land under CCRP practices for "EXPIRING" general and continuous CRP practices.

In short the new policy will allow producers with expiring CRP to re-enroll all or a portion of the expiring acreage into a Continuous signup practice. The "needs and feasibility criteria" is preserved for the ground being re-enrolled if the ground is offered for enrollment before **June 1** (very important date to remember) of the year following the year the CRP contract expires. Expired CRP acreage offered for re-enrollment past the June 1 final date to re-enroll would then be considered new land and would need to meet all CRP practice eligibility. It is highly unlikely expired CRP considered after the June 1 date will be eligible for enrollment into a new contract.

FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, (AFIDA), requires foreign persons, including corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, associations or like entities who acquire, transfer or hold interests in Ag land, to report these holdings and changes to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports must be submitted within 90 days of the date the land is bought, sold or transferred. Forms for reporting are available at any FSA office. Failure to timely file an accurate report may result in a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

2005, 2006, 2007 Disaster Programs DEADLINES

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) - Covers grazing losses, due to natural disasters, for Crop Years 2005, 2006, and 2007. **Deadline to signup is July 18, 2008.**

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - Covers livestock deaths due to natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007. **Deadline to signup is July 18, 2008.**

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) – cover quantity losses on crops for crop years 2005, 2006, 2007.
Quality Loss – an additional payment is available on crops that suffered and eligible quality loss in crop years 2005, 2006, 2007.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

If you have a crop loss, and are covered under the NAP insurance - A notice of crop loss is to be filed within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent, and give FSA the opportunity to inspect the acreage. All production must be verified by FSA **prior to feeding** or other disposal and all unharvested acreage must be appraised.

Accurate and detailed crop production records are a must, and need to be kept for the current year and the prior 3 years for spot check purposes.

County Committee Election Outreach Informational Meeting

A County Office Committee (COC) outreach informational meeting will be held July 17 at 11:00 at the USDA Service Center building at 319 Roger Barta Way in Smith Center.

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S Department of Agriculture.

The 2008 election for Smith County Committee will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, the middle portion of the county. This includes the townships of Martin, Beaver, Washington, Lane, Center, Blaine, Banner and Harlan. The 2008 election process includes the following dates:

June 15, 2008 Nomination period begins
August 1, 2008 Final day to file nomination at FSA
November 3, 2008 Ballots mailed to eligible voters
December 1, 2008 Final day to return ballots to FSA
January 1, 2009. Elected members and alternates take office