



June 2008

Washington County FSA News

Washington County FSA

705 B Street
Washington, KS 66968
(785) 325-2253
(785) 325-2657 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Dolores Jueneman, Chairperson
Eileen Hansen, Vice-Chairperson
Jim Burton, Regular Member
Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff

Cindy Zimmerman, FLM
Brandy Weber, FLO
Midge Miller, PT
Marilyn Laffen, PT
Brenda Heck, PT
Dawn Bargman, PT
Debbie Voelker, PT
Dianne Garber, PT
Linda Beikmann, CPT
Rob Larkin, CED

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 15 – County Committee nomination period begins

July 4 – Office Closed for Independence Day

July 18 - LIP/LCP signup ends

August 1 – County Committee nomination period ends

August 1 – Acreage Reporting deadline for spring seeded crops

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

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Changes in farming operations are required to be reported to the FSA Office to ensure program benefits are earned by the eligible participants. Failure to report changes can result in the loss of program benefits as well as additional penalties. Common changes are but not limited to:

- change in operator(s)
- change in landowners
- creation of trusts or other entities by producers
- building of houses or other structures on cropland

When a landownership change occurs, proof of ownership is required which includes deeds, land contracts, real estate tax assessment and/or bills. Participants that have new or changes to trusts, estates, corporations, LLCs, partnerships, etc, need to provide entity and/or organizational documents.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

For Washington County, the Livestock Compensation Program compensates livestock producers for feed losses that occurred between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006, due to drought, high winds, and excessive heat.

Eligible Livestock Compensation Program livestock include dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine and/or deer. Livestock must have been in an eligible county on the first day of the disaster designation. For Washington County, that is January 1, 2006. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Livestock producers that are interested in applying for Livestock Compensation Program will need to provide proof of ownership, number and type of livestock, pasture lease agreements, grazing loss percentage and feed cost documentation if claiming additional feed cost. **July 18, 2008**, is the final day to apply for Livestock Compensation Program benefits.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.

To be eligible for LIP, an owner or contract grower's livestock must have been located in a county or contiguous county designated a natural disaster by the president or declared by the U.S. secretary of agriculture between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007. A list of counties eligible for LIP may be found at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Livestock producers incurring livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years may only select one year in which to receive assistance. To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. An owner's livestock must have also met the following conditions. The livestock must:

- have died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event(s):
 - after Jan. 1, 2005, and before Dec. 31, 2007;
 - no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable disaster period(s) but before Dec. 31, 2007; and
 - in the calendar year for which benefits are requested.
- have been maintained for a commercial farming operation on the day they died; and
- not have been produced for reasons other than commercial farming. This includes wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Livestock producers that are interested in applying for Livestock Indemnity Program must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and location of the livestock at the time of death. **July 18, 2008**, is the final day to apply for Livestock Indemnity Program benefits.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Need more grain storage? Then consider FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan program. Under the program, eligible producers can borrow up to 85 percent of their net costs (up to \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note) for storage and handling equipment. Loans may be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years, and current interest rate for June is 3.375 percent. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. A 15% down payment is also required. Please contact our office for more information about facility loans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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 of Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income-producing projects. These projects must be of modest size (loan size limited to \$5,000) and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization. The youth must live in a town of less than 50,000 and be recommended by a project advisor such as a county extension agent, 4-H club or project leader or vocational teacher.

In addition to providing financing for the youth project, this program also gives the young person valuable experience in borrowing money, dealing with a lender, and keeping financial records. For more information contact the Washington County FSA Office.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

The nomination period for farmers and ranchers interested in serving on the Washington County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee begins June 15, 2008 and runs through Aug. 1, 2008. Elections will take place this fall.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. The 2008 Washington County Committee Election will occur in Local Administrative Area #1 which includes the townships of Union, Lowe, Highland, Franklin, Farmington, Charleston, Washington, and Logan.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available at the Washington County FSA Office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

CRP – CRITICAL FEED USE

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by Commodity Credit Corporation to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or 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 primary nesting season for Washington County runs from April 15 through July 15*) The more environmentally sensitive land 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 seasons ends through November 10, 2008.

CRP participants may utilize their CRP acreage for critical feed use or may lease the privilege to any other individual.

Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to the following CRP practices:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Corridors
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP10, Vegetative Cover - Grass - Already Established
- CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
- CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover

No more than 50 percent of the eligible CRP acreage may be used for haying. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (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.

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to:

- useful life easements, as determined by CCC
- land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards. The modified plan will provide for haying or grazing in a manner that is consistent with the conservation goals of the CRP to reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat.

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. Producers will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$75 for the modification of their CRP contract.

For CRP participants interested in modifying their CRP contract for critical feed use contact the Washington County FSA Office at (785)325-2253 for an appointment.