



District 2 – Barton, Ellis, Graham, Jewell, Mitchell, Osborne,
Phillips, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Smith, Trego June 2008

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Failed Crop Acres

Producers need to report failed crop acreages to FSA before they destroy the crop if they wish to receive cropping history credit. Producers with a crop insurance appraisal may bring the appraisal to the office as verification of the failed crop. FSA will need to conduct a field visit on all uninsured fields to verify the failed crop prior to destruction.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Seven year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

All loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required. For more information, contact the FSA office.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED



August 1st is the deadline for nominations for the 2008 County Committee election. Nomination forms can be obtained from any FSA office or at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/. Voting takes place between November 3 and December 1, 2008.

PLEASE NOTE

In an effort to protect PII (personally identifiable information), FSA will no longer honor phone, fax, or email requests from FSA customers to furnish documents from their Farm Records files or Applicant/Borrower files to a third party. The information can be mailed to the FSA customer and they can then provide it to whomever they choose.



If a producer intends for the county office to provide their information to a third party, the producer must submit a written request, with an original signature, or a fully completed, signed original 'Consent for Release of FSA Records Under the Privacy Act' form.

While we realize this change may be inconvenient, please understand it is intended to protect you as an FSA customer.

NEW CONTINUOUS CRP PRACTICE

Kansas received 30,100 acres for a special CRP practice CP38E 'SAFE Habitat for Upland Game Birds'. The acres are available without the necessity to submit a competitive bid. The purpose is to establish nesting/brood-rearing habitat anywhere within a cropped field. If you have hard to farm areas, poor soil areas, a spot to square up, pivot corners, etc. this practice may be ideal, but any cropland is eligible. You get annual rental payments, plus a one time Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre and a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) equal to 40% of installation costs, plus 50% cost sharing to establish the permanent cover. Ask your county office for a Fact Sheet on this for more info.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The deadline to file an application for LIP and LCP is July 18, 2008. Eligible livestock producers are encouraged to file an application soon, as no late filed applications are authorized. For more information contact the FSA office.



CONSIDER CONTINUOUS CRP

CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2008 may be eligible to be re-enrolled for a new 10 to 15 year continuous CRP contract on all or part of the acreage. Buffers, filter strips, and grass waterways are some examples to consider. For more information, please contact the FSA office.



Have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July!

TV TO GO DIGITAL

Do you have a TV in your home that works with the help of rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna? On February 17, 2009, TV stations will switch to digital broadcasting and unless your TV is digital, you will need to take action to receive programs after that date. The Federal government is offering households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. **TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after February 17, 2009.** To request a coupon, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to www.DTV2009.gov.



CRP MAINTENANCE

Reminder! Now is the time to take care of noxious weeds, tree or shrub encroachment and to ensure roads and other prohibited activities are not located on CRP acres. Prohibited uses are basically anything that is not in your conservation plan.

A few examples are: asphalt/concrete plants, trash disposal areas, livestock feed storage, permanent road/trails, cosmetic mowing, mowing of strips for hunting, buildings, oil/gas wells, associated tanks and access roads, and parking or storage of machinery, junked autos, etc.

The County Committee may authorize on a case-by-case basis the installation of wind turbines on CRP. Please contact our office **prior to the installation** so we can go over the requirements for your particular situation. It is very important to contact our office before placing anything on CRP or doing something that is not in your Conservation Plan.



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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities 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, 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.

EARLY LAND PREPARATION

CRP participants with contracts expiring this September 30 may begin early land preparation to return the land to cropland beginning July 1 without penalty. The participant must complete form CRP-1G prior to beginning any activity and also must obtain an approved conservation plan from NRCS prior to beginning tillage activities. If the soil is tilled prior to October 1, wheat or another fall seeded crop must be planted this fall. The acreage can not be hayed or grazed to begin the land preparations.

Producers in Smith, Osborne, Russell, Barton, Stafford, Pratt, and Barber, and counties west of that line may begin earlier than July 1. They will be required to forfeit the annual payment that would be earned from the date of approval through June 30. Participants who wish to begin preparations for planting corn or milo in the spring of 2009 may complete the required forms and begin applying herbicides to the contract acres after July 15, but may not disturb the soil until after September 30, 2008. The acreage may be mowed to increase herbicide-plant contact; however, the acreage can not be baled or grazed.

If you have a contract expiring at the end of September, and are planning to return the contract acreage to production, please contact the county office to discuss the options available to you.

TIMELY REPORT PREVENTED PLANTING

Producers must report prevented planted acres within 15 calendar days after the crop's final planting date and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss.

FARM BILL STATUS – STILL PENDING

As soon as a new farm bill is announced and the program provisions and sign-up dates become available, we will provide the necessary information to you.



Dates to Remember

June 15	COC election nomination period begins.
August 1	Final date to certify spring crops and CRP.
August 1	Final date to request reconstitution.
August 1	Final date to return nomination forms.
Within 15 days	Report NAP losses.