



# Northeast Kansas FSA News



September 2008

Northeast Kansas District 4 Counties – Atchison – Brown – Doniphan – Douglas – Franklin – Jackson – Jefferson – Johnson – Leavenworth – Marshall – Miami – Nemaha – Osage – Pottawatomie – Shawnee – Wabaunsee - Wyandotte



## Mark Your Calendar

**September 16** – SURE deadline (2008 disaster losses only)

**September 30** – DCP deadline

**November 2** – County Committee election ballots sent out

**December 1** – NAP deadline

**Ongoing** – Report farm changes



## Questions??

Please contact your local FSA office for more details about any of these articles.

### **Meeting On New Crop Friendly CRP Practice**

A new CRP practice has been announced that will allow producers to seed down low production areas in their fields to native grass. Areas that producers may consider seeding down to grass include rocky areas, small fields and hard to farm areas. The intent of this practice is to provide habitat for upland game birds. Acres may be enrolled anywhere within the cropped field. The shape of enrolled acres is not limited to strips.

If you would like to learn about some easy, cost effective ways to promote quail, the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Quail Forever, Farm Service Agency, & NRCS is sponsoring a Quail Habitat meeting. The meeting will be Tuesday September 16, from 7:00-9:00 PM at the McLouth High School Library in McLouth KS.

### **Waterway Cost Share Available**

Cost share to build waterways is available from USDA through the CRP program. The program offers 50% cost share, incentives and annual rental payments.

### **New Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline**

The original September 1 NAP deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008 as the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain 2009 NAP coverage for Barley, Rye, Triticale, Wheat, Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Spelt, and Turf Grass Sod.

December 1 is also the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for all Grasses, Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cane berries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55% of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50% or greater production loss of an eligible crop.

Producers must obtain NAP coverage on all 2009 non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on all 2009 insurable crops to remain eligible for the 2009 supplemental disaster assistance programs recently announced in the 2008 Farm Bill.

### **Foreign Investors Reporting Rule**

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

### **Sericea Lespedeza Treatment Reminder**

CRP acres are required to be kept free of Sericea Lespedeza. Abundant summer rainfall will cause a large amount of Sericea Lespedeza seed to be produced this fall if control measures are not taken. It is in the bloom stage now which is an ideal time to spray. Consult your local weed department or extension agent for chemical application details.

### Farm Bill Timeline

FSA staff will be attending 2008 Farm Bill training in early October. It is anticipated that after the training producers will receive information about signing up for new farm bill provisions from their local county office.

### Youth Loans

Loans up to \$5,000 are available to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Loan proceeds may be used to buy livestock, equipment, and supplies; buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment; and pay operating expenses for running the project.

### Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

### Grain Bin Construction and Rehabilitation

USDA can loan on construction or rehabilitation of bins for needed grain storage. Interest rates change monthly. The interest rate for August is 3.625%.

### Designation by Landowner

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm. A special provision exists that allows the DCP contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method known as "Designation by Landowner" provision must be requested and requires all buyers and sellers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes the signatures of all buyers and sellers. These requests must be made by June 1.

### Farm Ownership Loans

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit and who meet other regulatory criteria. Each year a portion of the funding FSA receives for loan programs is specifically targeted for socially disadvantaged persons and beginning farmers.

To qualify for an FSA loan, applicants must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens, have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations, a set amount of experience operating or managing a farm, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms.

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