



Farm Service Agency

SOUTHWEST KANSAS -- Finney, Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Meade, Morton, Seward, Scott, Stanton and Stevens

June 2008

REPORT 2008 PLANTED ACRES

Regardless of the future Farm Bill, one thing is still certain; you will have to certify the use of cropland acres on your farm for the current crop year. June 2nd was the deadline to report small grain acres to the Farm Service Agency.

If you have completed your spring planting please visit your FSA Office to get those feed grain, oilseed and CRP acres reported. The deadline for all cropland uses, other than small grains, is August 1. Beat the rush and report your acres now!

REPORTING FAILED ACRES

Don't forget to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, with FSA prior to destroying failed acres. By notifying the FSA office of these failed acres, it will give FSA the ability to certify the affected acres as failed, which in turn will retain those acres for crop history.

SIGNUP FOR CRP CRITICAL USE BEGINS JUNE 2

Certain CRP acreage can be made available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds. This will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program. Participants will be able to plan for harvest of forage after the end of the primary nesting season this summer.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after the end of the primary nesting season. Also, some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. In many instances, the removal of some of the grass cover will increase the diversity of the stand and provide long-term benefits for wildlife. Further, the most environmentally-sensitive land enrolled in CRP will not be eligible. The land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged to process this contract modification.

Signup for interested CRP participants will begin June 2, 2008, at your local FSA offices. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All forage use must be completed no later than November 10, 2008.

CRP STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT (SAFE)

CRP practice CP-38E, is also known as "SAFE" Habitat for Upland Game Birds in Kansas for the Northern Bobwhite quail, ring necked pheasants, greater prairie-chickens and other grassland associated wildlife is available.

The purpose of this Continuous CRP practice is to improve populations of the game birds by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. The practice will provide edge-type permanent cover within cropped fields for these game birds. All areas throughout Kansas are eligible to enroll acres in CP-38E. A one time Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) will both apply to a CP-38E offer.

Currently, eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six specific years. The land must be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

MOWING CRP CONTRACTS

Remember that your **CRP contract PROHIBITS**: 1) mowing CRP around irrigated circles on corners in CRP; 2) mowing hunting lanes; 3) any mowing for cosmetic purposes; 4) annual mowing for CRP weed control; 5) mowing of CRP to park machinery/equipment. You should always contact your local FSA office **before mowing any CRP** to ensure you will stay within the maintenance requirements for your contract.

You may request that FSA authorize a firebreak in high risk areas, such as near a farmstead. At your request NRCS would develop a modification to the Conservation Plan (CPO) for your CRP to include a firebreak. You must request to install a firebreak in advance and that modification to your conservation plan must be approved by the FSA county committee before you mow the fuel break. These are considered by the county committee on a case-by-case basis.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

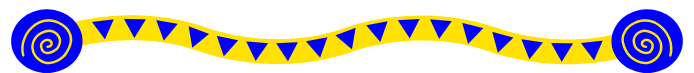
FSA offers seven-year, low interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen limiting and other upright silo type structures, and flat type storage structures.
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility.
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000. The maximum loan amount will be 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45.00 application fee.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

It is so important to notify your FSA office if changes for the 2008 crop year have been made to any of the farms you have an interest. Examples of changes to report are: if some of your cropland has sold; or if you acquired additional crop land; if your farm lease switched from being a crop-share to a cash lease or vice versa; if any land owners or farm operators are deceased or ownership should now be recorded as a trust, a corporation, partnership, or estate.



USDA WORKS TO PROTECT PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII)

USDA has launched a Department wide campaign to make certain that producers' "Personally Identifiable Information" or PII is being protected. The PII generally refers to information which is maintained by a USDA agency about an individual, including USDA customers and USDA employees. Information may include details of financial transactions between a customer and the Department. Unique information such as social security number and date or place of birth, can be used to trace an individual's identity. USDA's official policy on social security numbers, USDA will collect, use, maintain, and/or disseminate Social Security numbers only when required by statute or when specifically authorized to do so. USDA agencies will not use the number as an identity number and will mask or encrypt Social Security numbers so they cannot be viewed on computer screens, reports or other products.

DOING BUSINESS WITH FSA ON LINE

If you have computer access consider signing up for eAuthentication to acquire level 2 accounts so you can conduct USDA business on-line 24/7. This access requires filling out an online registration form at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, then make a visit to your local county FSA office for identification verification. Bring your photo id with you to the FSA. The only other requirement is that you have an e-mail address. Once your account is established you will have access to filing eLDP, eForms, Customer Statements, Financial Inquiry and many other programs and information will become available electronically. Visit our Kansas website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision, impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact your local FSA office to make arrangements for necessary accommodations.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

FSA reminds foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to FSA. Foreign investors buying or selling land must report such transactions within 90 days of the date of the sale. Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agriculture land.

Reports must be filed by:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Island or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under the laws of a foreign government or which has located its principal place of business outside the United States;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations, or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

FSA Form FSA-153 is used to report land holdings and transactions. The completed form must be returned to the FSA County Office where the land is located.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS TILL JULY 18

Enrollment into the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity program (LIP) will continue until July 18, 2008. Eligible livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 if losses are due to a natural disaster.

LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for livestock deaths that occurred between the above listed dates in eligible disaster designated counties. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died as a direct result of the disaster event. Documentation must be provided with the application to provide kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died.

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disaster occurring between the same above listed dates. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Livestock owners must have suffered a grazing loss or eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event.



****Upcoming newsletters will provide information on 2008 farm programs as information on the new farm bill becomes available.**



Dates to Remember...

August 1	Deadline to certify spring seeded crops, CRP, and NAP (NAP is earlier of Aug 1 or 15 days prior to grazing or harvest)
August 1	Deadline to request a 2008-year farm reconstitution
Ongoing:	➤ Continuous CRP signup
	➤ Direct & Guar. Operating or Farm Owner Loans
	➤ Rural Youth Loans
	➤ Farm Storage Facility Loans



FSA will be Closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4, 2008.

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