

# OFFICE CONSOLIDATION PLAN

Kansas recently received word of the approval of a proposal to consolidate 11 county FSA offices. The Leavenworth-Wyandotte office has been slated for consolidation with the Atchison County office under this plan. A public meeting has been set for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 2:00 pm in the 4-H building at Lansing, Kansas. Bill Fuller, Kansas State Executive Director of FSA will attend the meeting to explain the process, how it affects local farmers and landowners, and listen to public concerns and alternatives. FSA is consolidating offices in an effort to offset budget shortfalls while maintaining the existing Kansas workforce. Unfortunately that means the FSA presence in nearly every county in Kansas will be reduced. Farmers, landowners, and other stakeholders are invited to attend this meeting, learn about the plan, and express your views. To get to the location, follow Highway 73 (4<sup>th</sup> Street) to the stoplight at the south edge of Lansing. The access drive to the 4H Building is just west of the stoplight at highway 73 and 4H Road on the south side of 4H Road. The address is 101 4H Road, Lansing.

# **DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES**

Please contact the office when you are ready for signup in the direct and counter cyclical program for 2007. Notify the staff of any changes to your farming operation for 2007. This includes changes in crop shares, changes of farm ownership, cropland changes, etc. We will prepare your DCP contracts and pull all of your eligibility forms to be ready for your review when you visit the office. The eligibility review includes determining that the proper forms are completed depending on whether you are an individual, a trust, a corporation, a partnership, or other entity. It also includes the existence of your certification of conservation compliance, and adjusted gross income.

If you are signing as agent for another producer, or entity, care must be taken to ensure your signature format is proper and that the signature authority is documented on the appropriate legal forms, such as trust documents, corporate articles and by-laws, or partnership agreements. If supporting documentation is not on file with our office, approval of your 2007 contracts will be delayed until the necessary documents are provided.

Please allow a little extra time for this years enrollment. We are asking each producer receiving payment to make a thorough review of your eligibility file to ensure the proper issuance of payments.

# 2006 COMMODITY LOANS

Producers can obtain a nine month commodity loan and take advantage of low interest rates through the Farm Service Agency. Individuals or entities requesting the loan need to meet the eligibility requirements of the program. These requirements include reporting acreage for the current year, being in conservation compliance, having a farm operating plan for payment eligibility, and having no delinquencies on any Federal non-tax debt. Eligible producers can obtain commodity loans by placing the commodity in approved farm or warehouse storage.

Producers requesting a farm stored loan can either request a measurement service or certify the loan quantity on a CCC-666. When requesting a warehouse stored loan, a warehouse receipt must be obtained and brought to the FSA Office showing storage prepaid for nine months. The payable amount of the loan will be 100% of the net quantity on the warehouse receipt.

With cash grain prices on the rise, a commodity loan can give you operating capital while you consider your marketing choices for last years crop.

The deadline to request commodity loan for 2006 crops is March 30, 2007 for wheat and oats, and May 31,2007 for corn, grain sorghum and soybeans. Find out more about loans, LDP's and posted county prices at www.fsa.usda.gov.

As you slide down the banister of life May the splinters never point in the wrong direction!



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Leavenworth-Wyandotte County FSA Office 2050 Spruce Street Leavenworth, KS 66048-2144

> Atchison County FSA Office 605 6th Street Effingham, KS 66023-4041

#### NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE CHARGES

We were recently informed of an increase to the charge for completion of measurement services. This includes bin measurements, or cropland verifications usually associated with late-filed acreage reports. The current charge is a minimum of \$46 for the first hour, plus \$8 for each additional half hour. This charge will be applied on a farm number basis.

## **REPORTING PLANTED WHEAT AND OATS**

May 31 is the deadline for producers to report the acreage of 2007 wheat, oats and any other small grains that are planted in the county. When reporting, you will need to identify the field, planting date, intended use of the crop, and shares. We will assume all wheat is hard red winter unless reported otherwise.

## **REMINDERS\*\***

- Husbands and wives can sign most USDA documents on their spouse's behalf unless a written denial has been placed on file with the FSA office.
  - Special accommodations can be made for producers with a handicap, vision impairment, or hearing impairment, by contacting Rick Abel, CED, at 913-833-5460, or 913-682-1085.
  - Foreign Investors must report holdings of agricultural land in the U.S. within 90 days from purchase date to avoid assessment of penalties.

Foreign investors in Atchison, Leavenworth or Wyandotte county, should contact the county office to complete the appropriate filings.

#### Office Staff:

Farm Programs Effingham; Diane Kiehl, Jayne Wehking, Cindy Harden Farm Loan Programs Effingham: Pam Oswald, Kathy Hawk, Eric Guenther, Bruce Nutsch Farm Programs Leavenworth: Kay Campbell, Susan Sprang, Jackie Schwinn

> God is good, but never dance in a small boat.



May your home always be too small to hold all your friends.

FSA Website -- For FSA forms, and the latest on FSA programs, try www.fsa.usda.gov.

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