



BROWN COUNTY FSA
 1310 OREGON
 HIAWATHA, KS 66434
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 Fax: (785)742-7604
 www.fsa.usda.gov

HOURS:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Robert Bowen
Van Koelliker
Douglas Meyer

Advisor:
Evelyn Lierz

COC MEETINGS:
1st Tuesday of each
month at 8:30 A.M.

Staff:
Linda Kelsey, PT
Rosemary Kopp, PT
Lucinda Schilling, PT
Barbara Shefferd, PT
Robbie Roesch, TF
Kim Kee, CED

Loan Manager:
Bruce Nutsch
(913) 833-533-5460

Internet Web Sites:
 USDA-www.usda.gov
 FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA-
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov
 eAuthentication/Level
 2/Conduct USDA Business
 On-Line-
www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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Loan Rates

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
WHEAT	\$2.87	\$2.99
CORN	\$1.86	
SOYBEANS	\$4.91	
BARLEY	\$1.70	\$1.75
OATS	\$1.34	\$1.34
GR SORGHUM	\$3.31	
SUNFLOWERS	\$9.14	\$7.96

Interest Rates for
January

Commodity Loans - 6.00%
 Farm Stored Facility Loans
 – 4.50%

BROWN COUNTY FSA FARMLINE

January 2007

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE
ELECTION RESULTS

Douglas Meyer was elected to a three year term to the Brown FSA County Committee as a result of the December 7, 2006 election for County FSA Committee. Douglas will be representing LAA 1 which includes Morrill, Walnut, and Powhattan townships.

FSA Committees are responsible for local administration of FSA farm programs, under the guidance of the State FSA Committee and applicable Federal laws and regulations. The Brown County FSA Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 A.M.

Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office as soon as possible after the change occurs. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits. Changes affecting 2007 crops must be made by September 28, 2007.

DCP – DIRECT AND COUNTER-
CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGNUP

Producers may now enroll their farms for the 2007 DCP program. Farms must be enrolled by June 1, 2007 to earn DCP program payments. Participants may elect to receive direct payments in two installments. Advance payments may be requested for any month through September 2007 which will be 22 percent of the total payment. The balance of the total direct payment will be paid in October 2007. Participants who do not elect to take an advance payment will receive the entire direct payment in October 2007. During the enrollment process the county office will be reviewing participant's payment eligibility files. This review will include power of attorneys and signature authority for entities such as corporations, limited liability

companies, limited partnerships, general partnerships, trusts, and estates. Proper documentation must be on file before signatures may be accepted or payments issued.

Please contact the county office to schedule an appointment for enrollment.

SMALL GRAIN ACREAGE
REPORTING DEADLINE

Producers are reminded that they are required to timely report crop acreage. Acreage planted to wheat, oats, or barley must be reported by May 31, 2007.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE
RATE CHANGE

Effective October 25, 2006 the basic fee for performing measurement services in Kansas has been set as \$46.00 per farm. The fee applies to field staking and referencing, bin measurements, and late-file crop reporting verification. An additional \$8.00 will be assessed for measurements in excess of one hour. Mileage rates will not apply.

2006 COMMODITY LOANS
and LOAN DEFICIENCY
PAYMENT (LDP) DEADLINES

The final date to request loans or LDP's for 2006 wheat, barley, and oats is March 31, 2007. The final date to request loans or LDP's for corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers is May 31, 2007.





TO MOW OR NOT TO MOW NEW CRP SEEDINGS? . . . THAT IS THE QUESTION!

Native warm-season grasses (NWSG) generally have very small seeds and it takes a while to establish them: often 2-3 years in eastern Kansas and 4-5 years in western Kansas. The fact that NWSG stands take so long to develop sometimes leads to a mistaken conclusion that a seeding is struggling or even failing. Mowing CRP seedings of NWSG in the first growing season may assist in stand establishment but is subsequently all but useless once the root system is established.

During the first growing season of NWSG, it is typical for there to be very little top growth since the plants are developing deep root systems. This deep root system helps to assure long-term survival in our variable Great Plains climate. With this minimal top growth, stands can be shaded out by *some annual weeds*. Mowing during the *first growing season* can counter this threat.

After the first growing season the seedlings become well-enough established to compete successfully from that point on; making mowing in subsequent growing seasons is generally a waste of time and resources, destroying valuable habitat and often the wildlife in it.

Mowing from *late May through July* of the first growing season can be beneficial if the seedings are accompanied by dense stands of annual grasses or by broad-leaf weeds, such as kochia (fireweed) and Russian thistle. The dense canopies formed by kochia and Russian thistle deprive NWSG seedlings of sufficient light and these species are also highly competitive for limited moisture. Both of these broad-leaf weeds form the classic tumbleweeds that can break off and be blown by the wind.

To effectively aid the NWSG stand, first-season mowing must be done before the problem weeds get too tall and thick. If mowing is delayed into the growing season, it is likely that seedling losses have already occurred. Mowing 2-3 feet tall weeds can do more harm than good by creating thick layers of mulch. The risk of creating excessively thick mulch by mowing is greater in eastern Kansas.

Mowing annuals like sunflowers, giant ragweed, pigweed, mares tail (horseweed), or

prickly lettuce is not helpful since their more-open growth form allows sunlight penetration to the native grass seedlings below. These weeds may even improve first-year survival, acting as live cover crops that protect the stand from hot summer winds.

The past few years of dry conditions have sometimes resulted in less-than-ideal stands of grass in western Kansas, but often these same fields or buffers have excellent stands of perennial forbs and legumes. These perennials (alfalfa, coneflowers, prairie clovers, bundleflower, etc.) also provide good ground cover and excellent winter wildlife habitats. Mowing such stands more than 2 years after the initial seeding will not help establish native grasses, if they aren't already established.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 19	Office closed in observance of President's Day
March 31	Last Day to Request Loan or LDP for Wheat, Oats or Barley
May 28	Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
May 31	Crop Acreage reporting deadline for wheat, barley, and oats
May 31	Last Day to request Loan or LDP for corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers
June 1	Last Day for Enrollment in 2007 DCP



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