



April, 2007

Cloud County FSA Office

1501 E 7th Street
Concordia, KS 66901
(785)243-4438
(785)243-3602 – FAX

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee (COC)

Rick Hanson
Gale Ethridge
Brad Berk
Jane Snavelly, Advisor
COC meets the 1st Thursday of the month

Staff

Jackie Koch, PT
Jolene Kindel, PT
Colleen Larsen, PT
Jana Carlson, PT
Wayne A. Akers, CED

Internet web sites

USDA-www.usda.gov
FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov
NRCS-www.nrcs.usda.gov

Loan Rates

	2007
Wheat	\$2.92
Corn	\$1.97
Soybeans	\$4.88
Oats	\$1.34
Gr. Sorghum (cwt)	\$3.30
Sunflowers (cwt)	\$8.32

Special Accommodations

Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.

Dates to Remember

May 28 – Memorial Day – Office Closed.

May 31-Deadline to request a loan or LDP on 2006-crop corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, or sunflowers.

May 31 –Final date to report 2007 crop year wheat and oats without penalty.

July 4 – Independence Day – Office closed.

August 3 – Deadline to signup in 2007 DCP without penalty.

Weekly – Radio information spot every Monday at 6:50 am, 11:35 am, and 4:50 pm on AM 1390 KNCK.

Cloud County FSA News

2007 DCP Signup

Sign up for the 2007 DCP program is underway. All owner and operator changes on the farm must be reported before arriving for your signup appointment because the change may not be able to be made at the same time due to software limits. Changes that result in a reconstituted farm will likely take several days or weeks to complete.

Only those sharing in the risk of the crop are eligible for DCP payments.

If you wish to enroll, please make an appointment, and be able to state whether all producers on the farm desire advance direct and counter-cyclical payments, and what month they desire the advance direct payment.

For 2007, the advance Direct payment amount has been reduced to 22% of the total rate. You may request to receive the advance in any month from now through September. Only one advance counter-cyclical payment will be made for 2007; 6 months after the marketing year begins.

Many producers have farming interests in two or more counties. FSA assigns multi-county producers a "Recording County" that handles eligibility documents and makes those determinations.

We suggest you visit your Recording County office first to enroll in DCP and update your eligibility files since the Recording County is responsible for updating all of your eligibility records before a non-recording county can pay you. In summary, we will be unable to make an advance payment to a multi-county producer if that producer's Recording County has not updated the producer's overall eligibility.

Payment Eligibility

No FSA benefits are available until all necessary Payment Eligibility forms have been completed and determinations made by the County Committee. To meet payment eligibility criteria for 2007, you must make a significant contribution to the farming operation of 1 or more of the following: 1. land, capital and/or equipment, and, 2. "active personal" labor and/or management. Your share of the profits or losses must be commensurate with your contribution to the operation, and your contributions must be at risk.

In addition to meeting "Actively Engaged" rules, producers that cash rent land must also meet "Cash-Rent Tenant" rules. **CASH-RENT TENANTS** must provide a significant contribution to the operation of: 1) active personal labor, or, 2) active personal management AND equipment.

2007 County Committee Election

The County Committee election was held this fall in LAA-2; the middle portion of the county. Brad Berk, southeast of Concordia, was elected to a 3-year term and Gary Holbert was elected the alternate member. At their first meeting, Rick Hanson, north of Concordia, was elected Chairperson and, Gale Ethridge, east of Glasco, was elected Vice-Chairperson. Brad Berk will serve as Regular member. Jane Snavelly has been appointed as COC advisor for 2007.

Loan Violation Potential

Movement of any grain mortgaged under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan with out prior authorization or approval by FSA is a direct violation of loan provisions. Violation can occur by feeding, moving to another bin on the farm or movement to a buyer. To avoid penalties and the potential denial of future loan availability, **REQUEST APPROVAL PRIOR TO MOVING ANY LOAN COLLATERAL**.

Important Reminders

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Control noxious weeds, especially on CRP. Sericea Lespedeza is gaining a foothold in Cloud Co. It is classified as a NOXIOUS WEED by the State of Kansas. Failure to control it violates both Kansas Law and CRP contract provisions. Contact the Cloud Co. Weed Department for identification and control information.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Timely report all changes to your farming operation as soon as they occur. This includes, for example: Owner, operator, and address changes; Creating a trust, corporation, LLC, or other business; Changes to direct deposit & bank account information; or Adding or giving up farmland.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain

Consider obtaining Level 2 e-Authentication Access. This allows you to perform many functions on-line from your home computer, including filing e-LDPs, enrolling in DCP, checking program payment info, etc. Contact FSA for more information, including handouts and detailed instructions.

Producers with 2007 NAP Coverage must remember to file a "Notice of Loss" **within 15 days** of the date a loss occurred or the damage to a covered crop was apparent.

Conservation Compliance – HELC/WC

If you are considering removing any trees, clearing out any drains, or doing any dirt work around a stream or natural drain, **STOP!!!** You need to have a determination made before starting the work. With regard to wetland conversions (WC), the violation occurs once the wetland is altered. Remember, what most people think of as a wetland is not necessarily the USDA definition of a wetland. Realize that the US Army Corp of Engineers has jurisdiction over "All waters of the US" (this included the majority of all natural drains, streams and rivers in the US). Altering wetlands can result in non-compliance with USDA program eligibility, but can also cause federal civil penalties to be levied until the wetland is restored or mitigated.

You also need to have a Highly Erodible Land (HELC) determination made before breaking out any land to bring it into agricultural production. This applies to any land for which an HELC determination has not been completed and the land is brought into agricultural production after December 28, 1985. HELC violations occur when a crop is planted on land determined to be highly erodible (HEL) with out a conservation system in place. Being in Non-compliance status on HEL land can jeopardize all USDA payments or benefits. Even with a "Good Faith" determination, though payments/benefits are re-instated, penalties range from \$500 to \$5000 depending on the amount of land involved. This can be avoided if official determinations are made before any work is started.

IMPORTANT ITEM: THERE ARE NO SMALL AREA EXEMPTIONS – IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN USDA PROGRAMS, ANY LAND CLEARING OR STREAM BANK ALTERATION REQUIRES A HELC/WC DETERMINATION. Highly erodible and or wetland determinations must to be made to maintain eligibility for Farm Program Payments. If you have any questions, stop and make sure you understand the ramifications of HELC and/or WC requirement!!! ***IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!***

Farm Loan Program

EMERGENCY LOANS: Emergency loans are available if a natural disaster has been declared (disaster declaration) in the county in which you operate a farm or ranch, or in a county adjoining such an area. Cloud County is eligible under the Contiguous or adjoining county provisions. To qualify for an Emergency (EM) Loan, an applicant must be an established family farm operator, provide evidence of having a qualifying production or physical loss of at least 30% and be unable to obtain suitable credit from a source other than FSA. Current disaster designations are:

S2413- Damages and losses caused by the combined effects of a late spring freeze, drought, high winds, and extreme temperatures that have occurred from January 1, 2006 and continuing for physical and production losses. **Deadline to apply: June 12, 2007.**

S2485- Damages and losses caused by ongoing Drought, Excess Winds, and High Temperatures that have occurred from January 1, 2006 and continuing for physical and production losses. **Deadline to apply; September 10, 2007.**

M1675, Amend 1- Damages and losses caused by a severe winter storm that occurred from December 28, 2006, to December 31, 2006, for physical and production losses. **Deadline to apply: September 24, 2007.**

YOUTH LOANS: FSA has a loan program to help eligible youth to finance livestock and equipment purchases for livestock and crop projects, or for operating expenses to run the project. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.00. Projects must be part of an organized and supervised program of work, and must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor. The project must also produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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 of 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.