



December 2007

Coffey County News

Coffey County
USDA Service Center

Coffey County FSA
313 Cross Street
Burlington, KS 66839-1190
620-364-2313 (phone)
620-364-3149 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

County Committee
Warren Graham
Daryl Knight
Max Osborn
Bonnie Davies, Advisor

County Committee meets
the 2nd Wednesday of
each month at 7:30 AM.

Staff
Kim Specht, PT
Vicki Fry, PT
Vickie Wolford, PT
Megan Wilson, PT

Executive Director
Sarah Falk

Loan Manager
Stacy Kull



Customer
Appreciation
Day



We would like to remind everyone, **Wednesday, December 12, 2007** is our customer appreciation day. Stop in and enjoy some snacks between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All snack items are home made and prepared by the USDA Service Center employees.



DISASTER PROGRAMS

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Eligible Farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. The three ad hoc disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. Producers will apply on each year they experienced a loss, but will only be paid for the year in which the benefits are the highest. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under NAP for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Disaster benefits may also be paid to producers who had crop insurance but did not earn an indemnity. CDP will pay 65% on the greater of your proven yield (APH) **OR** the following yields established for our county:

Crop	Yield
Barley	33
Corn	79
Oats	37
Sorghum	69
Soybeans	27
Wheat	43

The 2005-2007 Livestock Indemnity Program provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock producers for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005-December 31, 2006 in Coffey County as a result of a disaster event. Documentation and evidence must be provided to FSA that supports the date, location, and cause of death of the livestock.

The 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs resulting from natural disasters. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation. A change in the administration of LCP was recently announced. **The change is that grazing losses in other disaster counties will be recognized as grazing losses for producers. Therefore ALL pastures located in eligible disaster counties will be counted toward your grazing loss. Producers must file for CDP in the county where the cattle were located at the beginning of the disaster event.**

In an effort to expedite the application process and provide efficient, quality customer service, we recommend that producers call the FSA County Office to schedule an appointment for disaster program assistance. For detailed application and eligibility information, please contact our office at 620-364-2313. Interested producers can also access LCP, LIP, and CDP fact sheets on FSA's Website, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Disaster Assistance Programs. **Make an appointment today!**

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Producers should be aware of payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements to be eligible for most USDA benefits. Program payments that require eligibility determinations prior to payment include the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency, Marketing Loan Gains, Environmental Quality Incentive, and Disaster Assistance Programs.

No program benefits can be issued to any producer until form CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review, and supporting documentation have been provided and County Committee determinations made. Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Certification (WC), must also be on file and a County Committee determination made prior to receiving benefits for most programs.

These forms do not need to be filed annually, however producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to the following:

- Contract shares that may reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or a change from share rent to cash rent, modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement.
- The size of a producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm.
- The structure of a farming operation, including any change in the member's share.
- Contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management.
- The acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.
- An increase in income that may affect the 3-year average for the determination of average adjusted gross income.

By statute, entities earning program benefits subject to a payment limitation must provide to the county committee the names, addresses, and ID numbers of the entities' members. The entity is also required to inform its members of the requirements to designate "permitted entities." Signature authority is required for all entities.

All payment limitations and eligibility determinations, as well as AGI certifications, are subject to spot check. A "not actively engaged in farming" determination may result in the loss or denial of all program benefits and request for repayment of USDA payments or loans.

Noncompliance with the adjusted gross income provisions, either by exceeding the \$2.5 million limitation or by failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to the adjusted gross income provisions.



FOREIGN INVESTORS 90-DAY 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.



2008 ACREAGE REPORT

Farm reports are required annually to maintain eligibility for Price Support Programs, Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). The acreage and planting date for small grains, including wheat, barley, and oats are required to be reported by May 31, 2008.



NEED DEBTS REFINANCED OR 2008 OPERATING CREDIT?

Do you have outstanding operating debt or bank debt that needs refinanced? Do you need operating credit for 2008? FSA Farm Loans can help. Low interest rate loans from 3.75% to 4.75% are available. FSA can provide 100% financing. Some of the qualifications for an applicant are: must have sufficient repayment ability; have sufficient loan collateral; and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender. One exception is that FSA cannot refinance real estate debt.

If you are a Socially Disadvantaged Persons (SDA) there are reserved loan funds available. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in Ottawa administers farm loan programs for Coffey County producers. Please contact their office at (785) 242-3527 ext 38 or 41 if you have any questions about the programs above or want to make an appointment.



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CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Seeding season for CRP has once again started for this year. All producers that were on the waiting list for the Conservation District drill should have received notification in the mail. If you have questions regarding drill usage, please contact the Coffey County Conservation District Manager, Kristi Vogts at 620-364-2313.

If you haven't received your CRP annual rental payment for 2007, please contact our office. There may be forms that need completed before these payments are issued.

Many participants in the last few years were required to take measures on contract acres to keep them in compliance. As a reminder, trees and shrubs are not allowed unless they are included in the Conservation Plan. Machinery and equipment are not to be parked on CRP acres. Oil and gas wells and access roads must be deducted from the contract acres. Hay bales are NOT to be stored on CRP acres, as the grass stand could be adversely affected. Cosmetic mowing or mowing of hunting lanes is also prohibited. No buildings of any type are allowed on CRP. Each contract is paid an annual maintenance fee; producers should continue to control volunteer trees and weeds. Contact the Coffey County FSA Office if you have any questions.

Dates to Remember	
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday
January 1	New Year's Day Holiday
January 1	Application closing date for NAP crops: apples and pears.
January 31	Last day to apply for Wool & Mohair Loans and LDPs. Also final deadline for Unshorn Pelts (LDPs).
Continuous	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continuous	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continuous	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

WEBSITES

- FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
- Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
- USDA - www.usda.gov
- Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

FSA Offices Closed

- December 25 – Christmas
- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 19 – President's Day

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FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Changes to your farming operation can affect your eligibility for program benefits. It is crucial that operation changes be reported to the FSA office as soon as possible to avoid eligibility problems. Reports of purchased or sold property should be accompanied by a copy of the land deed. Other changes that need reporting include increases in cropland, changes in shares, changes of operator or tenant, changes to your bank account, etc.



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