



February 2007

Dickinson County News

Dickinson County USDA Service Center

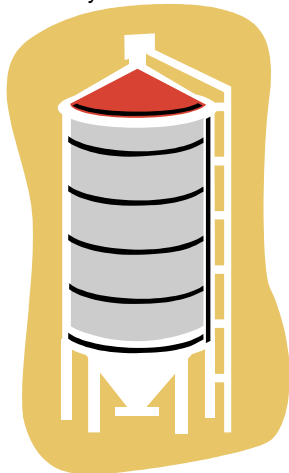
Dickinson County FSA
328 NE 14th Street
Abilene KS 67410
(785) 263-1351
(785) 263-1174 FAX
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Mark Bethe
Jared Hoover
Donneta Felbush

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 9:00 am.

Office Staff:
Ellen Alvarez, PT
Angela Haney, PT
Sandy Johnson, PT
Michele Snowball, PT
Becky Walker, PT
Sara Morey, CED
Field Staff:
Les Gray
Bob Meyer



FARM CHANGES

Any ownership, operator (tenant), or address changes should be reported timely or as soon as they are known and official to the county FSA office to keep your records current.

A copy of a recorded deed needs to be provided to the office to validate land transfers. Please note, the FSA office is NOT automatically notified of land record changes filed at the county courthouse. It is your responsibility to get the FSA office notified.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Signature policies are being strictly enforced by FSA Offices when it comes to properly signing program documents. If these policies are not followed you may be jeopardizing your benefits and may have to refund program payments.

Spouses may sign most documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been proved to the County Office. Spouses may not sign for a spouse's interest in partnerships, corporations or other similar entities, nor can they redelegate authority on an FSA power of attorney form (FSA-211) for a spouse. Certain Price Support documents and loan documents can not be signed by spouses unless power of attorney is on file.

Individuals may grant other individuals or entities authority to sign documents on their behalf based on FSA power of attorney form (FSA-211).

General Partnerships must file any formal partnership agreement with the FSA office. If there are no restrictions in the partnership agreement then any one general partner may sign program documents on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members. If there are no formal partnership papers than all partners must sign documents unless all members have granted authority for someone to sign for the partnership on FSA power of attorney form (FSA-211).

Corporations, Limited Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies, and other similar entities will be required to provide documents that show an officer has authority to sign on behalf of that entity. These documents may include the corporate charter, bylaws, papers executed according to State Law, or a resolution by the board of directors signed by the secretary or other officer other than the designated agent. If the entity documents allow for redelegation of signature authority then the person authorized to sign for that entity may execute an FSA-211.

Estate, Trust, Conservatorship or Guardianship type entities will need to provide the FSA office with a document executed according to State Law which states who can sign as administrator, executor, trustee, guardian, receiver, or conservator. Types of documents may include court orders of appointment, court approved certificate or letter of administration, trust agreement or last will and testament that established the trust, or other similar document approved by FSA's regional attorney. These documents must be signed or certified by an officer of the issuing court except those approved by the FSA regional attorney.

The above descriptions are the most common type of entities which do business with FSA. We may soon be contacting you for documentation of signature authority for your farming interests. When signing in a representative capacities **always use the words "by" or "for" and your capacity.**

2007 DCP PROGRAM YEAR AND ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS

The provisions of the 2002-2007 Farm Bill still apply to this year's Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) contracts, however a variety of changes need to be considered.

Due to the enactment of the Improper Payments Act, county FSA offices nationwide will now be conducting extensive eligibility reviews of all producers' program documents and forms. Specifically, individuals may be asked to complete or revise forms AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land (HEL) & Wetland Conservation Certification; CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan; CCC-526, Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification; and FSA-211, Power of Attorney; as well as submit copies of Articles of Incorporation, Estate, Partnership and Trust documents.

The review is FSA's effort to ensure the accuracy of all payments being made. This process involves great attention to detail and obviously more time involvement by producers and county FSA personnel. **This review must be completed during the 2007 DCP signup and prior to any payments being issued for any 2007 programs.** We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this mandate and apologize for any hardships or inconveniences that maybe created.

On February 8, 2006 Congress enacted the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005. Because of this act CCC will make advance direct payments for 2007 at **22 percent** instead of the 50 percent received in years past. These payments can be made any month from December through September of the contract period. A final payment will be made to producers as soon as practicable after October 1.

With respect to the Counter-Cyclical payment for 2007, **one partial payment of 40 percent** of the projected payment amount may be authorized to be made after completion of the first 6 months of the marketing year for the specific crop.



NEW FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Congratulations to Donneta Felbush for being elected to the Dickinson County Committee (COC) during the 2006 Election.

Donneta is beginning her first year of a three year term on the COC. An elected member can remain on the committee for a maximum of three terms.

FSA county committees help ensure FSA agricultural program serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster assistance and many more programs.

FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. The Dickinson committee consists of three members that represent all producers across the county.

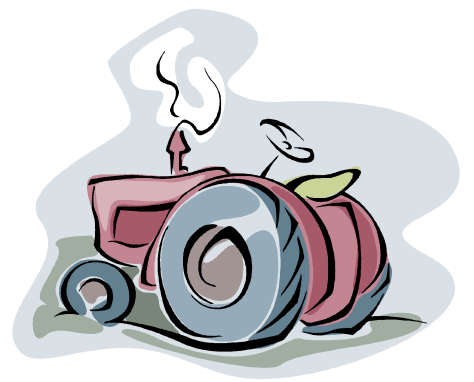
ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Many producers have realized the importance of timely reporting crop acres to earn program benefits. An acreage report must be on file to be eligible for the following:

- Requesting a commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)
- Requesting Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments.
- Requesting benefits for the Non-Insured Disaster Program (NAP)
- Annual rental payments for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Acreage Certification Deadlines are:

- Small Grain for Grain – May 31
- Small Grain for Grazing – 15 days prior to grazing
- Small Grain for Haying – 15 days prior to haying
- Spring Seeded Crops - August 1
- Double Crop – August 1
- CRP – August 1
- NAP – 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing for all other crops



Dates to Remember	
March 15 th	Application Closing Date for NAP coverage of DC commodities
March 31 st	Deadline Small Grains Commodity Loans (2006)
May 31 st	Acreage Report Deadline for Small Grains for Grain
May 31 st	Deadline Feed Grains Commodity Loans (2006)
June 1 st	Last day to sign up for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Contract w/o paying fee
April 15-July 15	Kansas Primary Nesting Season

Websites:
 FSA – www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA – www.fsa.usds.gov/ks
 USDA – www.usda.gov
 Level 2 eAuth Account – www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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