



District 2 – Barton, Ellis, Graham, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks, Rush,
Russell, Smith, Trego November 2007

Crop Disaster Program Signup

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15 for producers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP

Only producers who had crop insurance coverage on grain crops or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on forage crops are eligible for CDP.

Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment.

Signup for quality losses will be announced at a later date.

ATTENTION COTTON PRODUCERS



Cotton producers and importers who want USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) to conduct a referendum regarding the Cotton Research and Promotion Program can sign-up at their local FSA office through November 30, 2007. Producers who do not want a referendum do not need to sign-up.

This sign-up period allows eligible cotton producers and importers to request a referendum of the continuation of the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act.

In March 2007, following a comprehensive mandatory five-year review, USDA endorsed continuation of the 1991 Order amendments without a continuance referendum. This sign-up period is significant because if results of the sign-up period show that at least 10 percent (4,622) of the voting program participants request the conduct of a continuance referendum, then a referendum will be held within 12 months of the sign-up period end date.



Now is the time to report changes and request reconstitutions for 2008.

Livestock Disaster Programs



The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-ups began September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Both programs have a separate \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

LIP - The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, chickens, ducks, equine, geese, goats, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Eligible livestock for contract growers includes poultry and swine. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

LCP - The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, equine, goats, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-901 application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 2, 2007. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007.

CP33 ACRES AVAILABLE

Kansas has an allocation of acres remaining for Habitat Buffers for Northern Bobwhite Quail under the Conservation Reserve Program practice CP33.

The purpose of CP33 is to provide food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland acres. Cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. Buffer species may include native warm-season grass, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub plantings, as specified in the participant's approved conservation plan. This practice qualifies for incentive payments.

Signup for the practice will end December 31, 2007 or when the acres are all enrolled, whichever comes first. When the entire allocation is enrolled, Kansas will have 62,500 acres in habitat buffers.

BEGINNING FARMERS & YOUTH

FSA has loans available to assist beginning farmers with either a direct or guaranteed loan. A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) had not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for Real Estate (FO) loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the country.

FSA also makes operating loans to individual rural youths ages 10 through 20 to establish and operate income-producing projects. These projects must be of modest size (loan size limited to \$5,000) and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization. The youth must be recommended by a project advisor such as a county extension agent, 4-H club or project leader or vocational teacher.

Please contact the FSA office for more information.

EMERGENCY LOANS



Producers who had production and physical losses due to drought, flood, freeze, tornado, and other natural disasters may qualify for an emergency loan to help them recover.

Loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay production costs, reorganize the operation, and refinance certain debts. Applicants can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses not to exceed \$500,000. The current rate for these low interest loans is 3.75 percent.

Producers should contact FSA for more information.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required. There is a \$45 application fee.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The final date to purchase 2008 NAP coverage for alfalfa, grass, and oats forage is November 30, 2007. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

Dates to Remember

November 2	County committee ballots mailed to voters
November 12	Veterans Day Holiday
November 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
December 3	Final date to return county committee election ballots.
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday
On-going	Continuous CRP, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans. Loans for beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants.

Do not remove or dispose grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan without prior county office authorization or repayment!

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, 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.