



District 5- Anderson, Chase, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Linn, Lyon, Miami, Morris, Osage, and Shawnee Counties

FSA Annual Notification -- January 2008

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP CONTINUES

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

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 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year**. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened 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.

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, catfish, chickens, crawfish, deer, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, 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.

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, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided with the application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOANED GRAIN

If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed, sold or moved.



FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS



Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loans in excess of \$50,000 require a real estate lien. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.



DAIRY DISASTER AID PROGRAM

Eligible dairy producers can sign up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at local FSA service centers beginning Dec. 3, 2007.

DDAP-III will help dairy producers recover production losses resulting from a variety of adverse weather conditions in the last few years. The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers for production losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, because of qualifying natural disasters. It compensates producers for production losses that resulted from lost herds or dumped milk when dairy plants closed or the natural disaster damaged containment equipment. Additionally, power outages, fuel shortages, and infrastructure damage may have temporarily interrupted the flow of dairy products to markets.

To be eligible for DDAP-III, dairy producers must have suffered losses in primary and contiguous counties declared or designated a natural disaster. Also, producers in counties receiving an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice determination are eligible.

To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office.

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.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Spouses can sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA farm programs in which either has an interest. This signature authority is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is provided to FSA. For crop loans, an FSA-211 must be on file for spouses to sign for each other.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINES

CCC-576	Part B, Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 calendar days after the date the disaster or damage becomes apparent.
CCC-576	Part G, Payment Application must be filed by the earlier of the date the CCC-471 is filed for the subsequent crop year or the application closing date for the subsequent crop year.
CCC-578	Report of Acreage must be filed by the earlier of May 31 or 15 days prior to harvest of the crop.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local FSA office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A special provision exists that allows the contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method known as "Designation by Landowner" provision must be requested and requires all buyers and sellers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes the signatures of all buyers and sellers. These requests must be made by June 1.



CENSUS GIVES FARMERS A VOICE IN THEIR FUTURE

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come. This opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.



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

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special Accommodations 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 any arrangements that are needed.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS

The Ottawa FSA office handles farm loan programs for Anderson, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Linn, Miami, Osage, and Shawnee County producers. Please contact them by phone at 785-242-3527 ext 38 or 41 if you have any questions about the programs below or want to make an appointment. The office address is 343 W. 23rd St., Ottawa, KS 66067. The Emporia office handles farm loan programs for Chase, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Morris, Wabaunsee and Woodson Counties. The phone number is 620-343-6944 or address is 3020 W. 18th, Emporia, KS 66801.

FARM LOANS – The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers, involved in crop production, livestock, fruits, vegetables, nuts and other farm related products.

FSA is currently offering direct real estate loans with fixed interest rates ranging from 4.00% to 5.125% to purchase land, construct farm buildings and/or improve structures. Direct operating loans with a fixed interest rate of 4.375% can be used to finance machinery, equipment, livestock, feed, seed, plants, supplies, or refinance carryover operating expenses. Emergency loans at 3.75% are available for specific disaster designations in the area for producers having a qualifying loss of at least 30% in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property. An individual must be unable obtain commercial credit. This can be due to lack of down payment, equity, inability to cash flow at commercial lenders rates and term, etc. These interest rates are effective January 1st, 2008 and are subject to change the 1st of the each month.

The guaranteed interest assistance program will allow FSA to pay 4.00% of an eligible customer's interest expense on guaranteed operating loans for a period of 5 years.

YOUTH LOANS – FSA makes loans of up to \$5,000 to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, 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 program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.