



January 2008

Doniphan County News

Doniphan County
USDA Service Center

Doniphan County FSA
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Troy, KS 66087
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www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

County Committee
Jack Masters
Everett Euler
Ula May Drake

County Committee Meets
3rd Thursday

Staff
Curtis Kruse, CED
Mary Lou Blanton, PT
Jennifer Luedke, PT
Larry Diveley, FA
Autumn Simmons, Temp

Loan Manager:
Bruce Nutsch
(913) 833-5460

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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

Disclaimer: Program policy in this newsletter may change with the implementation of the new Farm Bill

\$\$\$ Farm Loans \$\$\$

The FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants beginning or continuing in agricultural production. Loans are available for operating, purchasing and/or improving farms and ranches.

Beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups are eligible for funding assistance to finance agricultural enterprises through either direct or guaranteed loans. Youth loan projects are also available for financing 4-H, FFA and other organized youth group projects.

Farm storage facility loans offer a seven-year, low interest loan, to grain producers, for the maintenance or construction of storage facilities. These loans may also be used to upgrade related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment.

For more information regarding the acquisition of a loan and the qualifying factors, contact your local FSA office.

LOANED GRAIN QUALITY MAINTENANCE

ARE YOU AT RISK?

This year's large grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for the bushels harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Overfilling of grain bins hinders airflow and increases the chance of spoilage. Farmers utilizing the marketing assistance loans, with farm-stored grain as collateral, need to remember they are responsible for maintaining grain quality through the term of the loan. Make sure your loan isn't at risk.

Livestock

DISASTER PROGRAMS

Doniphan County livestock producers may be eligible for disaster relief compensation due to feed and livestock losses as a result of natural disaster occurring in 2006.

Signup for LCP and LIP began September 10, 2007. Check with your local FSA office to determine if you are eligible for one of both of these programs.

Continuous CRP Extended

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program was given a green light to proceed with signup until March 15, 2008. The program is designed to reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

Filter Strips Really Do Work

Editorial By: John Meisenheimer, Buffer Coordinator

Recently, I was out looking at some fields that had grass filter strips planted three years ago. One side of the creek had a filter strip below a fully terraced field. This filter strip looked great with an excellent brome grass stand and no erosion.

On the other side of the creek was another brome grass strip seeded at the same time. This grass strip also looked excellent with a good grass stand and no erosion EXCEPT that it had gullies in the un-terraced field above it. Below each of these gullies was a higher spot in the filter strip that was very apparent. These high spots were over a foot higher than the surrounding grass. As I stood there and looked at one of these high spots it suddenly became apparent what had happened. This was where the grass had stopped a lot of soil that had washed out of the eroded crop field and had stopped it from going into the creek just thirty yards below.

The crop field above this strip is over thirty percent slope, so it is one of the steeper crop fields in the county. And, the filter strip was only thirty feet wide had stopped a lot of soil (much more than I had ever thought possible). The grass was also much better below these gullies than the rest of the grass area. This was because the runoff water had also carried fertilizer along with the soil and the grass had caught and kept it out of the creek too.

There were several gullies in this crop field and below each one was a higher spot in the grass filter strip. This was visual proof, to me, filter strips really work. I have been somewhat of a skeptic about how much good a small strip of grass, only thirty feet wide, could do below our steep crop fields in Doniphan County. I was always taught the only real way to stop soil from entering a creek was by terracing crop fields. I have seen the evidence and am now a believer in grass filter strips. Believe me, they do work.

CDP Signup Continues

The Crop Disaster Program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality and quantity losses on 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops.

Losses for natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance in cases of prevented plantings. Producers will be eligible for only one year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or NAP will be eligible. Contact the FSA office to determine if you are eligible for compensation.

Wool Producers

Make sure you have your paperwork completed for the 2007 LDP no later than January 21st, if you plan on participating in the program. We are also signing up producers for the 2008 program, so be sure to get a head start this year and signup now.

Conservation District Annual Meeting

The Conservation District annual meeting will be held in the Troy Community Building on Monday, February 4, 2008. The 4-H Exchange Trip students will be serving dinner at 6:00 PM. RSVP by January 25th.

Randy Thies, cultural resources specialist and archeologist with the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, will be the main speaker, through the Kansas Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. His topic for the evening is "Cemeteries Galore."

A short business session will be held including an election, by secret ballot, for the supervisor positions currently held by Ed Eylar & Craig Johnson. District NRCS updates will be included.

A Kansas Banker Award will be given for soil conservation and a filter strip award will be presented. There will be a short slide show about the award winners.

For reservations contact: Donna Penny at 985-2221 ext 3 or by email at donna.penny@ks.nacdn.net



Dairy Disaster Signup

Eligible dairy producers may begin signing up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program.

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

IRS Form 1099-G

Yes, it's that time again. Producers who have repaid a market grain or a Commodity Credit Corporation Loan with cash or commodity certificates in exchange for outstanding loan collateral will now have their market gains reported to the IRS on Form 1099-G.

Due to changes in tax laws, FSA is now required to report to the IRS all market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan.

Producers with questions should contact a tax advisor or visit IRS website:
<http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-33 IRB/ar07.html>.

AG CENSUS

The national Agricultural Statistics Service began distribution of the 2007 Census. The census allows America's farmers and ranchers the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture.

The forms were mailed on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers have the opportunity to file via web site:
<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>

So get those census forms turned in and help shape America's agricultural future.

Dates to Remember	
January 21	Offices closed
January 31	2007 LDP Deadline
February 4	Conservation District Annual Meeting- RSVP January 25th
February 4	Census Deadline
February 18	Offices closed
March 15	CRP Continuation Ends (unless extended by new Farm Bill)
May 26	Offices closed
May 31	Deadline to report Small grains
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continue	MILCX Program

Need to Rent a No-Till Drill and Purchase Grass Seed?

Contact the Doniphan County Conservation District. Ask for Donna 785-985-2221 ext 3

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