

FSA NEWS

GREENWOOD COUNTY FSA OFFICE
1819 E. RIVER ST.
EUREKA, KS 67045

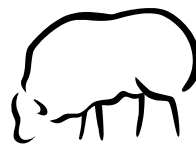
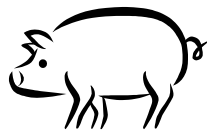
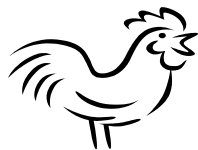
Ernest Reusser, County Executive Director
Volume 1, Issue 33

February/March 2007

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone (620) 583-5544 Fax (620) 583-6236

County Committee normally meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

County Committee Members: Marshall Stauffer – Chairperson, Kim Boone – Vice Chairperson, Zelma Samuels – Regular Member



2006 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Voted ballots were counted publicly on December 7, 2006 at the county FSA office with the following results: Kim Boone was elected to the county committee for another three year term and Robert Kurtz was elected as an alternate from Local Administrative Area (LAA#2). Terms for these positions began *January 1, 2007*.

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT LIMITATION REQUIREMENTS

Producers should be aware of payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements to be eligible for most USDA benefits. No program benefits can be afforded any producer until form CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review and supporting documentation has been provided and County Committee determinations made. The Farm Operating Plan does not need to be filed annually. However, producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation which would affect a “person,” actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, or foreign person determination. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to the following: a) contract shares that may reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; b) the addition or deletion of a farm in the size of a producer’s operation; c) the structure of a farming operation including any change in member’s shares; d) contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; e) the acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed on the CCC-502, including farming

interests of a spouse or minor child; f) 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 and the entities’ members. The entity is also required to inform its members to designate “permitted entities.” Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Certification, must also be filed prior to receiving benefits.

The payment limitations per year a “person” can earn are as follows: Direct Payments (DCP)-\$40,000; Counter Cyclical Payments (CC)-\$65,000; Conservation Reserve (CRP)-\$50,000; Environmental Quality Incentive (EQIP)-\$450,000; Loan Deficiency (LDP) and Marketing Loan gains for crops-\$75,000; and Noninsured Assistance (NAP)-\$100,000. An individual or entity can not receive certain benefits if the average adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$2.5 million unless 75% of the average AGI was derived from farming.



PROPER SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Ensure FSA has your proper Signature Authority/Power of Attorney (POA) on file. FSA requires proper signature authority be on file when signing program and/or eligibility forms prior to approval and receiving FSA program benefits. Producers signing in a representative capacity must sign documents “by” or “for” the individual/ entity they are signing for and list their title. Acceptable evidence of authority is legal documents designating signature authority. For most situations, a valid power-of-attorney (FSA-211) form may be provided if acceptable evidence of authority does not designate the signatory. If a document is signed by an individual without signature authority, any payments resulting from the improper signature may have to be refunded. Spouses can sign FSA program documents on behalf of each other for most FSA programs without signing any special forms. For *crop loans*, an FSA-211 must be on file for spouses to sign for each other.

**2007 DCP FARM PROGRAM SIGN-UP
UNDERWAY - CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

Sign-up for the **2007** Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program began **October 1, 2006** and will continue through **June 1, 2007**. Producers can request an Advance Payment equal to 22% of the total direct payment. Producers need to call the FSA office to schedule an appointment to sign up for the DCP program. With the additional eligibility reviews being conducted, and to assure all necessary forms are on file, the signup process will likely take additional time, so to better serve you, we ask that you *schedule an appointment*.

**2007 NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
FOR CERTAIN COVERED CROPS**

March 15, 2007 is the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. **March 15** is the final day to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for coarse grains including double crop soybeans, double crop grain sorghum, cotton, vegetable and melon crops, and several other crops. Please contact the county office for additional guidelines and program information.



May you live
as long as
you want,
and never
want as long
as you live.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST - REPORT FARM
CHANGES TIMELY**

Report changes in your address or operation, and Bank Accounts that affect your FSA payments immediately.

All USDA Offices will be closed **February 19** for the President's Day Holiday.

2007 County Loan Rates for harvested crops in Greenwood County are as follows:

WHEAT (HRW) -- \$2.89/BU;
BARLEY--\$1.80/BU;
OATS--\$1.37/BU;
CORN--\$2.05/BU;
GRAIN SORGHUM--\$3.43/CWT;
SOYBEANS--\$4.94/BU

The final date to obtain CCC crop loans for 2006 Wheat is **March 31** and for 2006 Corn, Grain Sorghum and Soybeans is **May 31, 2007**. The current CCC loan interest rate for loans disbursed in February is 5.00%.

Foreign Investors of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes *within 90 days* to their local FSA office, or face potential civil penalties.

Special Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call our office for arrangements needed.

*****Note:** *If you believe you received this newsletter in error, or wish to be removed from future mailings, please contact your current Farm Service Agency county office.*