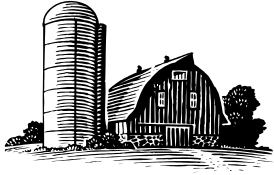




JANUARY 2007

Labette County News



Labette County FSA
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PO Box 437
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5431 phone
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at
www.fsa.usda.gov or
email at
kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov

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

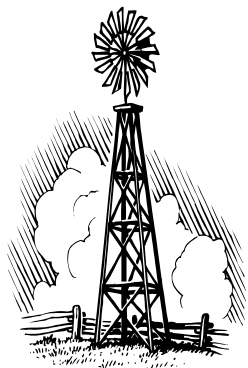
County Committee:
David Dhooghe, Chair
Darlene Ferguson, Vice
Ken Foster, Member

County Committee meets
the 1st and 3rd Wednes-
days of the month

Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Sally McKinzie, PT
Annetta Henry, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Quote of the day:
Many human be-
ings say that
they enjoy the
winter, but what
they really enjoy
is feeling proof
against it.
Richard Adams



NEW YEAR, NEW DCP CONTRACT SIGNUP

It's that time of year again! We are currently taking appointments and approving contracts for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program signup. At the time of signup, we also want all producers to file their 2007 planted wheat acreage reports as well as their 2007 Form 633EZ, Page 1, which is the LDP Agreement and Request.

One big change this year is the verification of every producer's payment eligibility. We are required to review every payment eligibility document filed by you, whether as an individual or an entity and verify the data is correct. If it is not, we will complete new forms at that time. This is a time-consuming process and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. It is National Office's intent that this process eliminate any improper payments made to ineligible producers.

Advance DCP payments may be requested by you at the time of signup. Due to legislative action in 2006, the advance payment percentage has dropped to 22% of the total DCP payment. As always, the full DCP payment balance will be paid in October. The Direct advance payment can be requested in any month. The Counter-Cyclical (CCP) advance payments can also be requested at signup time.

Crop acreage reports are a requirement of both the DCP and CRP programs. Plan on reporting any annually or perennially planted crops at the time you sign up for the DCP program. You will need to know the locations and planting dates of any crops planted. Please call the office now to make your appointment to complete these items. Appointments are given first priority. The deadline to both sign into the 2007 DCP program and file your 2007 planted small grains acreage report without penalty is **May 31, 2007**.

NON-POINT SOURCE MEETING

The Conservation District is having a Non-Point Source (NPS) meeting in February. This is a public meeting to find out the different water issues that need to be addressed in Labette County. This program will provide funding for the best management practices, which will be discussed at the public meeting. A date has not yet been set, but will be soon. Please call the District Office at 620-784-5613 to find out the date.

2006 COC ELECTION RESULTS

Ken Foster is the newest representative on the Labette FSA County Committee for LAA2 (Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland Townships). In December, producers in that area voted for Ken to replace their current COC representative, Terry Gosard, who had chosen to step down from that position. Thank you to Terry for his dependable and conscientious service over the last 6 years!

COC elections are held every December in one of the three LAA's in the county. Nominations for LAA 1, which is basically the northeast quarter of the county, will be accepted in July, 2007. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Keep up with the latest about the Farm Bill debate, Senate hearings and other information concerning American agriculture at
<http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

BOBWHITE BUFFER STRIP CRP ACREAGE STILL AVAILABLE

There is still an acreage allotment available for producers in Kansas for CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strips. About 1900 acres are currently on the table for grabs. Bobwhite Buffer Strips not only increase habitat for quail and other nesting birds, they put those unproductive edges of your fields to work making a little money. And the initial cost of putting Bobwhite buffers on your ground is minimal, as FSA pays up to 50% of the expense and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks will pay up to ANOTHER 40% of the expense, with the remittance of a KDWP voucher, available at the FSA office. If you are interested in this program, don't hesitate to come into the office to make your application. This is a first-come, first-serve program with a signup deadline of December 31, 2007.

LABETTE CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST SHARE MONEY AVAILABLE

The Conservation District has Cost Share money available for new ponds, terraces, waterways, seeding, pipeline & tank, and many more practices. Stop by the Conservation District to find out if you are eligible for Cost Share dollars. March 1, 2007, is the deadline to sign up.

Important Dates

Feb. 19	Office closed for Presidents Day
Mar. 15	WRP and other cost-share deadline
Mar. 15	NAP application deadline for pecans
Mar. 21	National Ag Day Open House at Labette FSA Office
Mar. 31	2006 Wheat Loan Deadline
Apr. 15	CRP Nesting Season Begins
May 31	DCP Signup and Acreage Report Deadline

2007 LOAN RATES

2007 commodity loan rates for Labette County wheat, oats, and barley have been announced. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

Wheat—\$2.95/bushel
 Barley—\$1.75/ bushel
 Oats—\$1.37/bushel

2007 loan rates have not been announced for the following commodities. Below are the 2006 rates:

Corn—\$2.09/bushel
 Grain Sorghum—\$3.44/cwt
 Soybeans—\$4.98/bushel
 Sunflowers—\$8.71/cwt
 Canola—\$7.92/cwt

Rates can also be accessed online at www.usda.fsa.gov. Under Browse By Subject, click on "Price Support."

RESTORE WETLANDS WITH THE WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

March 1, 2007, is the deadline for applying for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). This program is available through USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS's goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. NRCS with input from the landowner, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

More information about the WRP is available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp or contact the Labette County NRCS at 620-784-5613.



UPDATED RECORDS KEEP PAYMENTS FLOWING SMOOTHLY

We are asking your help in keeping our ownership and other records current. We can keep your payments coming to you quicker and with no hassle if you will notify our office of ANY type of change made in your business. This includes changes in ownership, whether by a land sale or transfer due to inheritance. Contrary to popular belief, the Labette County Register of Deeds does not notify our office every time land is transferred between owners. It's your responsibility to notify us by providing a copy of the recorded deed or the property tax statement or assessment from the county, along with the social security number and mailing address of the new owner.

If your farm operator has changed or you have acquired new land to farm, we need to know as soon as possible. We also need you to promptly notify us of address changes and changes in your bank account that would require a new direct deposit form.

We also need you to keep us updated on any changes within entity organizations such as trusts, corporations, partnerships, etc. We are now requiring that current legal entity paperwork be filed annually in order to ensure the proper persons are receiving payment. Please be prepared to submit this information to our office when requested.

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