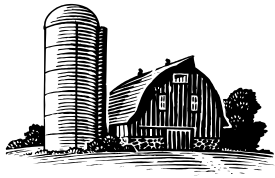




APRIL 2007

Labette County News



Labette County FSA
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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 Wednesday of
each month

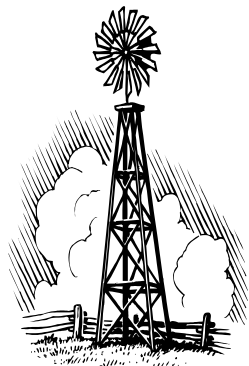
Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Sally McKinzie, PT
Annetta Henry, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Quote of the day:

“Diplomacy is the art
of saying 'Nice doggie'
until you can find a
rock.”

---Will Rogers



DEADLINES APPROACHING—DON'T LOSE OUT!

Although FSA recently extended the 2007 DCP signup deadline to August 3, the final date producers can report their planted wheat and other small grains without penalty is still **May 31, 2007**. Based on last year's planted acreage, about 75% of Labette County's wheat is reported. But that still leaves a lot of wheat acreage to be reported by the deadline. Help us help you by having your planting dates and acreages with you. Crop acreage reports are a requirement of both the DCP and CRP programs.

Producers are currently signing contracts to enroll their farms into the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. We estimate about 60% of the farms that usually enroll have done so this year. However, this means there are still about 500 farms to sign up. FSA recently extended the deadline from June 1 to August 3, 2007. Any farms enrolled after August 3 will be assessed a \$100 late penalty.

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.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET ENROLLED INTO THE 2007 DCP PROGRAM AND/OR REPORTED YOUR PLANTED WHEAT ACREAGE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE NOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. We know it's sometimes easier for you to drop in as your schedule allows, but we really need your help by making an appointment. This allows us to prepare your paperwork beforehand and give you the best service possible!

We also want all producers to file their 2007 Form 633EZ, Page 1, which is the LDP Agreement and Request. This form will protect your LDP eligibility if commodity prices happen to drop low enough for LDP's go into effect at any point this year.

Stay actively informed about the most current Farm Bill proposals, Senate hearings and other information concerning American agriculture at www.agriculture.senate.gov or www.usda.gov

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Labette County, along with 14 other Kansas counties, was included in a USDA disaster designation on January 10, 2007. The area is considered a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by the combined effects of drought followed by excessive winds and above normal temperatures that occurred from Jan. 1, 2006 and continuing. This qualifies local farm operators for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. The designation expires on September 10, 2007, which is the deadline for farm operators to apply for an emergency loan. Please contact the Montgomery County FSA at 620-331-4860.



LIVESTOCK PREMISES REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT FSA OFFICES

Animal and premises ID is a controversial subject among livestock producers. The United States has the safest food supply in the world, but Animal ID is needed to keep it that way. And a guaranteed safe food supply should increase livestock exports, which, as we all know, supports livestock prices. Premise registration is the first step through the KanID System to implement the National Animal ID System (NAIS), which is a system created to help protect animal agriculture by tracking the movements of animals in commerce and track potentially damaging animal disease outbreaks. FSA, in partnership with Kansas Animal Health Dept. (KAHD), can register your livestock premises at your local FSA office. This process is completed online and takes a short amount of time to complete. Contact our office for more information or obtain more info online at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.

Important Dates

Mar. 31	Final date to apply for 2006 Wheat loans
Apr. 15	CRP Nesting Season Begins
May 28	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Final date to apply for 2006 Coarse Grain loans
May 31	Small Grains acreage reporting deadline
Jul. 4	Office closed for Independence Day
Aug. 3	2007 DCP Program Signup Deadline and final acreage reporting deadline

2007 LOAN RATES

Below are the 2007 commodity loan rates for Labette County. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

- Wheat—\$2.95/bushel
- Barley—\$1.75/ bushel
- Oats—\$1.37/bushel
- Corn—\$2.08/bushel
- Soybeans--\$4.97/bushel
- Grain Sorghum--\$3.49/cwt
- Sunflowers--\$7.81/cwt
- Canola--\$7.90/cwt

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

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM ACRES AVAILABLE

Although there is no General CRP Signup projected for 2007 or 2008, Kansas just received an additional allocation of CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strip, acreage. 35,000 acres are now available statewide for this CRP practice. The final deadline is still December 31, 2007. There are also other continuous CRP practices available, with two of the more common and popular practices in Labette County being CP9, shallow water areas, and CP21, filter strips. Please contact the office if you're interested in signing up for this program or would like more information about these practices.

Those of you with active CRP contracts recently received letters from our office reminding you of the general CRP maintenance requirements. Some of the basic maintenance requirements are:

- NO mowing or burning during the nesting season (April 15 through July 15).
- NO grazing or haying without prior approval from Labette FSA County Committee.
- Control undesirable weeds, plants, insects or pests by the means listed in the contract's Plan of Operations. This includes removing volunteer trees.
- Report any ownership changes ASAP.
- Report new well drilling so the contract acreage can be corrected. Wells are not authorized CRP cover.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6832 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CAN YOU CONDUCT USDA BUSINESS ONLINE YET?

We're all spending more and more time online doing things such as banking and paying bills, making vacation plans, filing taxes, connecting with people, and researching (well, OK, "surfing"). USDA has made great strides recently in becoming more accessible and customer-friendly by totally revamping its websites and creating a process called "e-Gov". What this means for you is that you can now gather FSA information and conduct some FSA business online from the comfort of your home PC. Some of the programs available electronically to FSA customers are: DCP program enrollment, LDP applications, and accessing your financial and payment histories online. However, to be able to access these applications, you must first apply for Level 2 e-Gov access through your local FSA office. We would love to help you understand and apply for this process! If you're interested, please contact the office. Online, go to www.sc.egov.usda.gov for more information.

NON-POINT SOURCE MEETING

The Conservation District will be having a Non-Point Source (NPS) meeting in May. This will be a public meeting to find out the different water quality 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 Labette Conservation District Office at 620-784-5613 for more information