



Lyon/Chase County News

November 2007

Lyon/Chase County USDA Service Center

Lyon/Chase County FSA
3020 W 18th Ave., Ste A
Emporia, KS 66801
620-343-2812 (phone)
620-342-3069 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours

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

County Committee

Kenneth Schmidt
Phil Kirk
John Hertlein
John Soyez
Don Immasche
Marian Jones
Ernestine Hatch, Advisor

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Staff

Farm Programs

Karen Monroe, PT
Jane Dicke, PT
Joan Phillips-Fowler, PT
Diana Rohde, PT
Carol Cahoon, PT
Ava Zumbunn, PT
Leanne Haag, Temp
Alan Schamberger, CED

Farm Loan Programs

Sharon Cozart, PT
Vicki Hase, PT
Kurt Schweinler, FLO
Jane Armitage, FLM

As we express our gratitude, we
must never forget that the
highest appreciation is not to
utter words, but to live by them.
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

OFFICE CONSOLIDATION

The consolidation of Lyon and Chase counties are complete. Chase county producers will now conduct their FSA business in the Emporia Service Center located at 3020 W 18th Avenue in Emporia. Staff changes in the office include the County Executive Director, Alan Schamberger, Jane Dicke and Carol Cahoon, Program Technicians from the Chase County Office and a Temporary, Leanne Haag.

Nominations will continue until December 7, for the special county committee election. The new Local Administrative Areas have been established. There will be 5 areas instead of 3. Stop by the office to view a map showing areas.

We look forward to serving our Lyon/Chase County producers.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

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

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. 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. We are currently reviewing data downloaded from insurance companies and will let you know when your application is ready for processing.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) signup 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.

LIP – 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.

LCP – 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 FSA-901 application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA offices will be closed.
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA offices will be closed.
January 1	New Years Day Holiday. FSA offices will be closed
January 21	Martin Luther King Day. FSA offices will be closed.
February 18	President's Day. FSA offices will be closed.
June 2	Final day to certify small grains

CP33 ACRES AVAILABLE

Kansas has an allocation of acres remaining for Habitat Buffers for Northern Bobwhite Quail under the Conservation Reserve Program practice CP33. Kansas currently has over 30,132 acres of habitat buffers enrolled.

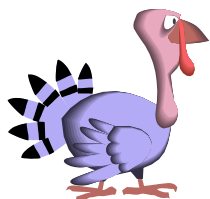
The purpose of CP33 is to provide food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland acres. Cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. Buffer species may include native warm-season grass, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub plantings, as specified in the participant's approved conservation plan. This practice qualifies for incentive payments.

Eligible land may be enrolled in CP33 anytime under the continuous CRP. However, signup for the practice will end December 31, 2007 or when the acres are all enrolled, whichever comes first. When the entire allocation is enrolled, Kansas will have 62,500 acres in habitat buffers.

A fact sheet on CRP: Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative is available at www.fsa.usda.gov, then click on Fact Sheets on the right side of the screen. Or contact the Farm Service Agency at your local USDA Service Center.

CONDUCT YOUR USDA BUSINESS ON-LINE

If you have access to the Internet and have an e-mail account you can obtain an e-Authentication Level 2 Account and conduct some of your USDA business on-line. Access www.fsa.usda.gov, and then click on "Online Services" at the top of the page. Instructions are provided on how to obtain a Level 2 eAuth account. Once the account is set up, you can access eLDP, eDCP, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry, eForms, and eRepresentative. Obtain more information and a brochure at your local FSA office.



FARM LOANS

Farm Loan Programs, a part of Farm Service Agency, makes both direct and guaranteed farm loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private credit from a bank or other lender.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local lender makes and services the loan and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases. For those unable to qualify for a loan guarantee from a commercial lender, FSA also makes direct loans. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, they are farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, and provide crop inputs. If you are having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility for these loan programs.

Following are the November rates for Direct loans:

Farm Operating	4.75%
Farm Ownership	5.375%
Farm Ownership (joint financing)	5.00%
Farm Ownership (beginning farmer)	4.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

Each year a portion of the FSA funding is targeted for socially disadvantaged persons and beginning farmers. FSA defines a socially disadvantaged person as one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, these groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

To qualify for an FSA loan, applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a satisfactory credit history, a feasible cash flow, a set determined amount of experience operating or managing a farm or ranch and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms.

In addition to loans to farmers and ranchers, FSA also makes youth loans to individuals between 10 and 20 years old, live in town of less than 10,000 and be unable to obtain to loan from other sources. Loan proceeds may be used to buy livestock, equipment, and supplies, and pay operating expenses for running the project.

The Emporia office covers seven counties: Lyon, Chase, Greenwood, Morris, Marion, Wabaunsee, and Woodson. For questions on any programs, please stop by or call our office at 3020 W 18th, Emporia, or call 620-343-6944.

E-FORMS

To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign up and get a user name and password. To sign up in person, visit the county office and complete form AD-2016. The staff will verify your identity and enter your information into the system. You will receive a letter with your temporary ID. You will be sent a second letter with your temporary password and instructions on how to activate your account. You then go to the Activation Web site and select a permanent ID and password.

Submitting an e-form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's also faster. Forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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, 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.