



McPherson County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

APRIL 2007

McPherson County FSA
 200 S Centennial Drive
 McPherson, Kansas 67460-4012
 TEL: (620) 241-1836
 FAX: (620) 241-6311

Service Center Hours
 Monday – Friday
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee
 Michael Patrick, Chairperson
 Dixie Mattas, Vice-Chairperson
 Greg S Goering, Member
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Michael Westerman, CED
 Kathy Meacham, Program Technician
 Jan Hake, Program Technician
 Pat Regier, Program Technician
 Bev Kavouras, Program Technician
 Kristy Nattier, Program Technician
 Carrie Belshe, Temporary PT
 Dan Mason, Field Assistant

Farm Service Agency online

 FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2007
Wheat	\$2.99/bu
Corn	\$1.99/bu
Soybeans	\$4.92/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.38/cwt
Sunflowers	\$8.25/cwt
Barley	\$1.85/bu

RECORD CHANGES

If you have **bought, sold, or renting different land**, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

- May 28** – Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31** – Final date to report 2007 wheat, oats, barley & triticale acreages.
- May 31** – Final date to request a loan or LDP on 2006-crop milo, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.
- July 4** – Closed for Independence Day
- August 1** – Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, CRP, and any other land uses.
- August 3** – Final date to signup for the 2007 DCP program without paying the \$100 late-file fee.
- Sep 3** – Closed for Labor Day
- Sep 30** – Deadline to enroll into the 2007 DCP Program to remain eligible for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments that includes a \$100 late-file.

ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS SLOW DCP PROCESS

Participants in the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program should expect a delay in receiving their advance payments this year due to the need to thoroughly review all payment eligibility forms.

FSA offices nationwide are conducting extensive eligibility reviews of all producers' program documents and forms. Specifically, individuals may be asked to complete or revise forms AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land (HEL) & Wetland Conservation Certification; CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan; CCC-526, Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification; and FSA-211, Power of Attorney; as well as submit copies of Articles of Incorporation, Estate, Partnership and Trust documents. The review is FSA's effort to ensure the accuracy of all payments being made. This process involves great attention to detail and obviously more time involvement by producers and county FSA personnel. **This review must be completed during the 2007 DCP signup and prior to any payments being issued for any 2007 programs.** We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this mandate and apologize for any hardships or inconveniences that maybe created.

Advance direct payments of 22% can be requested for any month through September 2007. The final direct payment will be made in October 2007. Advance counter-cyclical (CC) payments may also be requested.

SMALL GRAINS REPORTING DEADLINE MAY 31st

Reporting of your crop acres is required on farms that are enrolled in DCP, contain CRP acreages, insured NAP crops, fruits and vegetables, or produce a crop for which a loan or LDP may later be requested.



We will be certifying entirely with GIS mapping. County Offices nationwide have been experiencing computer problems with the WEB. The process can be very slow, so be prepared for a longer stay in the office.

The final date to certify wheat, barley, oats and triticale is **May 31, 2007**. The final date for corn, milo, forage sorghum, double-crop, fallow, CRP and all other remaining crops is **August 1, 2007**.

2007 RECONSTITUTIONS

Reconstitutions involving tract and/or farm divisions & combinations are being processed at this time. The final date to apply for a 2007 reconstitution is August 1, 2007, but should be filed earlier. Recons usually result from a change of operator or owner on a farm or tract. Normally, farm divisions will result in base acreage being split in proportion to the resulting cropland acreage for each resulting farm. However, many times the LANDOWNER DESIGNATION method can be used to divide the base acreage as agreed to by all parties prior to an ownership transfer. This method works well with small acreages that will be devoted to residential sites, etc. Contact the FSA office if you have questions regarding this method.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE (FAV) RESTRICTIONS

Farms enrolled into the DCP program are subject to certain restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables (FAV's). The basic rule to remember is if you plant FAV's such as watermelons, sweet corn and other similar crops on "base acres" it could result in a DCP violation. *The only FAV exception is if the farm, or the producer, has a documented history of planting FAV's. Please contact our office before planting any fruits and vegetables.*

DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED TO AUGUST 3

NEW! The 2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup has been extended to August 3, 2007.

A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007. This extension applies only to the enrollment period, and does not extend the DCP contract period. Form CCC-509 must be filed with all signatures for a farm by September 30, 2007 to remain eligible for benefits.

REMINDERS

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

RECONSTITUTIONS

To be effective for 2007, farm combinations and divisions must be requested no later than **August 1, 2007**. A request for a reconstitution after 2007 DCP payments have been issued will NOT be processed for 2007 unless all payments disbursed by FSA for the farm or farms have been refunded.

NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2007

We were informed of an increase to the charge for completion of measurement services. This includes bin measurements or cropland verifications usually associated with late-filed acreage reports. The current charge is a minimum of \$46 for the first hour, plus \$8 for each additional half hour. This charge will be applied on a per farm basis.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Control trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director of Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CRP MAINTENANCE

Some general responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- o Annual reporting of CRP acres by August 1st.
- o Haying, grazing and harvesting are not allowed.
- o All stands must be maintained to control noxious weeds, trees, or undesirable vegetation. Trees are prohibited unless it is in your CPO.
- o Maintenance activities may not be performed during the primary nesting & brood rearing season of April 15 through July 15.
- o Some prohibited uses include: asphalt/concrete plants, lagoons, trash disposal, storage of equipment or hay, permanent road/trails, livestock feed storage, oil wells, communication towers, wind generators, cosmetic mowing, mowing strips for hunting, and no buildings houses, sheds, or structures.
- o Basically ANY use must be approved before the activity begins unless it is in to your conservation plan.

2007 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Signature authorities are being reviewed to ensure an individual signs documents in the appropriate manner.

INDIVIDUALS may grant other individuals the authority to sign on their behalf by signing an FSA-211 (FSA Power of Attorney). Spouses may sign on behalf of each other unless written notification denying this authority has been provided or for Price Support loan documents an FSA-211 is required.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP any partner may sign documents and bind all members of the partnership unless the partnership agreement designates a member or restricts signature authority.

CORPORATION, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY & OTHER SIMILAR ENTITIES an officer, member or agent must be designated the authority to sign in the corporate charter, bylaws, partnership agreement, signed corporate minutes or a resolution by a Corporation's board of directors.

ESTATE, TRUST, CONSERVATORSHIP OR GUARDIANSHIP documents (orders of appointment, court-approved certificate or letter of administration) signed or certified by an officer of the issuing court that the evidence is in full force and effect, trust agreement, or last will and testament that established the trust or similar document approved by FSA's Regional Attorney.

FSA-211 (FSA Power of Attorney) that is signed by a person or persons with authorization to redelegate may be used to grant authority for entities to an agent. When signing in a representative capacities always use the words "by" or "for" and your capacity or title. (Example: John Smith Revocable Trust by Fred Smith, Trustee)

FAILED ACREAGE CREDIT

Producers who consider destroying a crop that has failed because of disaster related conditions may request failed acreage credit by filing form FSA-576. The request must be filed before the disposition of the crop and the affected acreage must be reported as failed acreage. If the crop will be taken to harvest you will not need to file form FSA-576 with our office.

CLEARING LAND OR ALTERING WETLANDS

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. Then NRCS will determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for our programs and other USDA programs. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for our programs.