



June 2007

# Mitchell County News

Mitchell County  
USDA Service Center

**Mitchell County FSA**  
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Beloit, KS 67420  
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www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

**County Committee**  
Carolyn Finney  
Barry McPeak  
Jane Wallace

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month at 8:30 a.m.

**Staff**  
Jamie Powell CED  
Marilyn Seehafer PT  
Darnell Winkel PT  
Sara Deneke PT  
Debra Stalcup PT  
Brenda Hollaway PT

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The 2007 Mitchell County Committee election will be held in the west third of the county. Nominations must be in by August 1, and are encouraged from minorities and unrepresented groups. Nomination forms and Fact Sheets can be obtained from any FSA Office or at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/)

Ballots will be mailed in November and must be returned by December 3. Ballots can not be signed by a power of attorney.

## FAILED ACRES

Failed acreage is to be reported to FSA before the crop is destroyed to create acreage history credit. If the crop is insured, a copy of proof of loss can be filed to verify existence. If the crop is not insured, FSA must make a field visit to verify the crop was planted and document the cause of loss. Separate provisions apply for crops covered by NAP.

## ACREAGE REPORTS

To collect program benefits including loan deficiency payments, crop loans, crop insurance, non-insured assistance program, disaster benefits, or history, acreage reports are required.

Many programs require all cropland on the farm be certified before benefits can be earned. Each farm must have all cropland acres reported, all old soil bank acres, waterways, feeding lots, feed crops and fallow. The final day to certify wheat or oats was May 31.

The final date to certify corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, alfalfa and other feed crops is August 1. Crops covered in the Non-Insured Assistance Program have earlier dates.

As soon as you finish planting fall crops, report those acres. With our tight budget and increased workload, we most likely will not send out reminders. Therefore, it will be the operator's responsibility to remember to timely file crop acreage certifications. Late file provisions do exist, but are very expensive as field visits are required and must be completed before any tillage is performed.

## NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Producers in the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) for 2007 must report any loss in production within 15 days of the date of loss. With drought, a loss may not be known until harvest, so you would have 15 days after harvest to report a loss.

Acres must be reported 15 days before any haying or grazing takes place. If you applied for coverage on forage sorghum, you must report the acres immediately after planting.

The final date to purchase NAP coverage for the upcoming fall or winter wheat grazing as well as 2008 ornamental and nursery crops, is September 1, 2007. Producers interested in this coverage must file an application and pay a non-refundable administrative service fee of \$100 per crop by September 1.

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on grass (hay, grazing or seed) and alfalfa for the 2008 season is Dec. 1, 2007. The final date to buy NAP for 2008 feed sorghums is March 15.

Those who have NAP must provide verifiable production evidence for the covered crop to remain eligible for the disaster payment. If the production will be fed, an FSA measurement is required and sample bale weights.

## CRP – Managed Haying and Grazing

Due to a settlement with the National Wildlife Federation provisions for managed haying and grazing of CRP acreage have been revised. The revision affects new or reenrolled CRP Contracts approved after September 25, 2007, and existing CRP Contracts; provided managed haying or grazing was not previously approved on the contract before September 25, 2007. The following guidelines provide the settlement revisions with an exception noted at the end.

- A payment assessment shall be assessed based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental payment times 25%.
- A burn with cost share, and haying or grazing may not be in the same year.
- The acreage may be rented or leased for haying or grazing privileges.
- Excluded CRP acreages are: Wildlife Food Plots, Wildflower areas, Filter Strips, useful life easements, and land within 100 feet of a stream or water body.

**Managed Grazing** – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 5 years, including years of emergency grazing release.

Grazing is conducted from July 16 through November 13 not to exceed 120 consecutive days or as otherwise limited by a management plan or conditions.

**Managed Haying** – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 10 years, including those years of emergency release. Haying is permitted on no more than 50 percent of each field or contiguous field once in five years. Haying is permitted from July 16 thru August 15. The hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from the final date to hay. The hay may not be stored on CRP acreage and the hay may be sold.

**Exception** – applies to **existing** CRP contracts providing that managed haying and/or grazing was approved on a CRP Contract's Conservation Plan **prior to** September 26, 2007. If haying and/or grazing was previously approved by this date the guidelines we have used in the past are grandfathered in. Below are guidelines for those in the exception status:

- Managed haying or grazing is authorized 1 of every 3 years.
- No haying or grazing during the nesting or brood season (April 15 – July 15).

**\*\* Please contact our office if you have further questions.**

**2007 CROP LOANS**

The 2007 crop loan rates for Mitchell County are as follows:

- Wheat - \$2.92/bu.
  - Corn - \$1.91/bu.
  - Gr.Sorghum - \$3.31/cwt
  - Oats - \$1.34/bu.
  - Soybeans - \$4.85/bu.
  - Sunflowers - \$8.39/cwt.
- Other oilseed rates are available if needed.

Crop loans are for a nine month period. For grain in the elevator, the warehouse receipt must show storage is paid for the nine month period or the loan rate is reduced. Interest rates change monthly, but the rate is fixed from disbursement to January 1 when it changes to the January interest rate.

Farm stored grain must be in a structure that allows safe and easy access. **There must be sufficient headroom in the bin to allow for inspection, probing and treatment. Permanent ladders must be attached to the bin and bins must be numbered.** This applies whether the quantity is for a certified or measured loan.



**DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM**

Contract acres in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) must be maintained all year from weeds going to seed and erosion. This applies to fallow acres as well as crops. The final date to enroll in DCP is August 3. Late filed applications cost \$100.00 per farm.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAMS (CRP)**

CRP acres are covered by a binding contract. CRP must not be hayed, grazed, harvested for seed or any other benefit. Also, weeds and trees must be controlled. Those that had trees and trails reported last year need to make sure the same problem is not reoccurring. If trees or trails are found now on CRP acres, it will be treated as a violation.

CRP acres can not be used to store machinery, vehicles or bales. Gravel, sand, and oil can not be taken from these acres. CRP acres can not have trails, paths or lanes. Mowing strips or lanes in CRP is prohibited. Lanes or strips are considered hunting lanes and are a violation of the contract. Any activity that disturbs the permanent cover is prohibited.

Penalties for violations include a refund of all previous rental payments, cost shares, interest on both, and liquidated damages.

**NEW FARM BILL**

2007 is the final crop year of the current Farm Bill. Lawmakers are working on new rules; however there is no indication what the outcome will be. When the current laws expire, the farm programs in effect now may or may not continue. We will keep you posted of developments.

<b>Reminders</b>	
	All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known throughout the year.
	Contact FSA before breaking land, removing tree areas, removing field boundaries removing farm stored loan grain or planting any crop that might be a fruit or vegetable on contract acreage.
	Check your CRP Plan of operations and remember to get food plots planted if they are in your plan.
	Weeds/trees must be controlled on Conservation Reserve acres.
July 4	Office Closed.
August 1	Last day to report fall crops.
August 3	Last day to sign up in DCP.
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	MILCX Program

**WEBSITES**

- FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)
- Kansas FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)
- USDA - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)
- Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)

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