

September 2007

Donna J. Sifers

County Executive Director

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Neosho County FSA Office

124 W. State, Suite 2
Erie, Kansas 66733

Phone: 620-244-3491

FAX: 620-244-3582

County Committee

Teresa Bogner

Donald Taylor

Donald Vitt

Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Office Staff

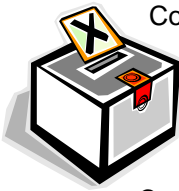
Teresa Cox

Marcia Fickel

Rena Lucas

Field Reporter – W. Don Wood

COC Elections



County Committee Elections – Why participate? FSA County Committees exist to help the area's farmers and ranchers, and help deliver federal programs locally. Committees make decisions on price support loans and payments, acreage verifications, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments, and other farm disaster assistance. Committees meet once a month, have three to five members which serve three year terms. Agricultural producers of legal voting age and participating in FSA programs are eligible to vote in County Committee elections. The 2007 election represents LAA 2 which includes the south half of Walnut Grove, Erie, and Canville townships, plus the north half of Chetopa, Centerville, and Mission townships. Donald Vitt, rural Saint Paul is seeking his second term as a representative of Neosho County's farmers and ranchers

Emergency Loans Available

Farmers in Neosho County who suffered crop or livestock losses due to Severe Storms and Flooding occurring 6/26/2007 through 7/25/2007 may apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans. Applications for assistance will be accepted by FSA until 3/18/2008.

Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay. FSA loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster. FSA loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster. Farmers, who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise, may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses.

Those farmers interested in credit as a result of Severe Storms and Flooding, which occurred 6/26/07 through 7/25/2007, or who would like other information regarding loan programs should contact FSA at 207 S. Summit, Girard, Kansas, 66743 or call (620) 724-6227.

Conducting USDA Business On-line

Producers can obtain an eAuthentication level 2 account and conduct USDA business on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from home. This access requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to a USDA Service Center for identity verification. You must have an e-mail address. On-line FSA business can include e-DCP, e-LDP, Financial Inquiry, Customer Statement, and e-Representative.



Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at the FSA office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated. All records must be current to enroll in the farm programs, and for accurate acreage reports. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID number. Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs

CRP Maintenance Reminders

Maintenance reminders were mailed to all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants in the past few weeks. Inquires regarding effective weed control methods can be directed to the County Weed Supervisor; Roger Daniels at 620 244 3848, or the District Conservationist; Joyce Wade of the Neosho County Service Center at 620 244 3491.

Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call your local FSA office and they will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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



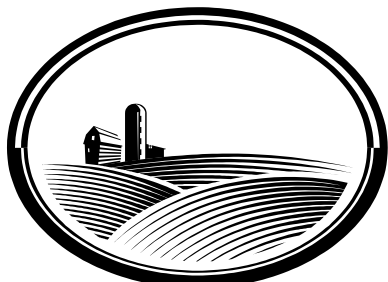
FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity.

FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to purchase and install eligible storage facilities, to permanently affix drying or handling equipment, safety equipment or to remodel existing facilities. Real estate liens are required for loans that exceed \$50,000. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required.



ECP

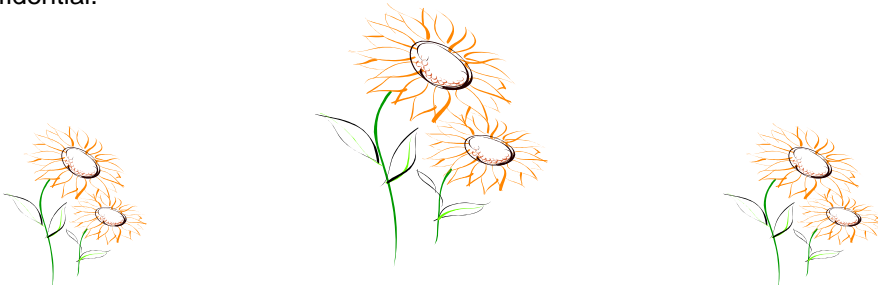
The Neosho County Farm Service Agency has submitted a request for Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding as a result of heavy rainfall and flooding which occurred during late June. The program is designed to provide cost share assistance for farmers and ranchers who experienced severe damage to agriculture land resulting from the rain or flood. There are several eligibility requirements involved with the implementation of the program. Some of the requirements are:

- The damage must have occurred outside the 100-year flood plain
- Producer must have sustained a minimum of \$1,000.00 of eligible damage
- An on-site inspection must be completed prior to any repair activity
- Restoration cost share is intended to repair the practice/structure to pre-disaster condition.

Approval and funding has not been received at this time. The Neosho County FSA office will accept applications for assistance prior to approval. Please contact the FSA office for additional information about ECP, or to submit an application for assistance.

Kansas Mediation Service

Family farmers and ranchers continue to face difficult challenges due to increase fuel and the fertilizer costs, the long term effects of natural disasters, the increasing costs of doing business, and the changing face of the agricultural economy. The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) provides mediation, financial counseling, and legal assistance for Kansas farmers, ranchers, and their creditors. These services are free or at a very low cost for Kansas farmers and ranchers. KAMS coordinates farmer- creditor mediation for the Kansas agricultural community. Mediation is a confidential voluntary process that helps parties to resolve credit disputes by mutual agreement. Mediation may be requested by either the producer or a creditor. Ag credit mediations are handled at no cost to the participants. All of these services can be accessed through the toll-free telephone number (1-800-321-3276). All calls are free and confidential.



Commodity Loans

Producers can obtain a nine month commodity loan and take advantage of low interest rates through the Farm Service Agency. Individuals or entities requesting the loan must meet the eligibility requirements of the program. These requirements include reporting acreage for the current year, being in conservation compliance, having a farm operating plan for payment eligibility, and have no delinquencies on any Federal no-tax debt. Eligible producers can obtain commodity loans by placing the commodity in approved farm or warehouse storage. Producers requesting a farm stored loan can either request a measurement service or certify the loan quantity on a CCC-666. When requesting a warehouse stored loan, a warehouse receipt must be obtained and brought to the FSA Office showing storage prepaid for nine months. The payable amount of the loan will be 100% of the net quantity on the warehouse receipt. March 31, 2008 will be the final date to request a 2007 loan on wheat, oats, or barley. The final loan availability for 2007 corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers will be May 31, 2008.