

Osage County Ag Wire

Newsletter of the USDA Service Center in Lyndon Kansas:
Farm Service Agency - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Osage Conservation District



Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday January 2007

Quick Reference Guide

SERVICE CENTER PHONE	(785) 828-4631
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PHONE	(785) 828-3458
FAX	(785) 828-3716
ADDRESS	115 West 17 th Lyndon, KS 66451-9561
E-MAIL	brandon.wilson@ks.usda.gov



Mark Your Calendar

2nd Thursday of each month – FSA County Committee Meeting

February 13 – Conservation District Annual Meeting

February 22 – No-till on the Hills Meeting

May 31- Last day to certify wheat

June 1 – Last day to sign up in DCP program

Quail Buffer CRP Conservation Practice 33 Acres Still Available

A recent initiative to improve habitat for the Northern Bobwhite Quail and other upland birds was announced last year. This initiative pays producers to plant grass buffers around cropland fields to improve local quail habitat. Eligible land must meet cropping requirements, ownership requirements and be planted to an approved vegetative cover. Signup is ongoing through September of 2007 or until the acreage limit has been met. Producers can help quail and add to their bottom line by seeding this grass practice next to rows of trees and fence lines where yields are usually low.

Burn School

Tuesday, March 6th at 5:00 pm there will be a Burn School at Grace Community Church in Overbrook. In addition there will be a field demonstration at a time to be announced. All land owners who have CRP and rangeland are encouraged to attend. More details will be released in the Osage County Herald some time in February.

Conservation Compliance

Producers are reminded that they must contact the FSA office before breaking out any pasture or other areas to farm. Before any land is broken out for tillage, a highly erodible and wetland determination must be completed at the site. Failure to take this action can result in a loss of all program payments issued - past and future.

No-till on the Hills Meeting

The No-till on the Hills Alliance (made up of farmers from Osage, Franklin and Douglas counties) has a winter meeting scheduled February 22, 2007 at 6:30 at Lamont Hill. The featured speaker will be Dr. Ray Ward, Soil Scientist of Ward Laboratories, Inc., Kearney, Nebraska, who will be speaking on managing nutrients in a no-till system. Pre-registration is required and can be made by contacting Loren Stewart at (785) 242-2400 or by email at 10stews@kansas.net.

Conservation District Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the Osage County Conservation District's 66th annual meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 6:00pm at the Osage City School lunchroom. The supper is compliments of the Osage County banks. Following supper, poster awards, Kansas Bankers Awards, and Conservation District Awards will be given. Please make reservations at 785-828-3458 by February 1.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is taking applications at the Service Center from landowners and operators that need cost-share and incentive funds for applying conservation practices to improve grazing lands, cropland, stream banks, forestland, and water quality. **The following payments are available to producers that qualify:**

Conservation Tillage (No-till) \$30.00/ac.
Rotation Grazing \$6.00 - \$10.00/ac.
Nutrient Management \$24.00/ac.
Pasture Rested \$10.00/ac
Sericea Lespedeza control \$4.00 - \$12.00/ac.
Brush Management \$8.00 - \$77.00/ac.
Waste Utilization \$24.00/ac.
Ponds up to \$5000.00 each.
Wetland Habitat Mgmt \$6.00/ac.

In addition to the practices listed above, there are more available at 50-70 % cost-sharing. Applications are ranked according to certain environmental priorities and approved based on the funding amount available. Applications approved for funding are developed into a 2 to 10 year contract. **For more information on EQIP call 785-828-3831.**

Farm Program (DCP) Sign Up and Wheat Certification

Sign up for the 2007 DCP farm program is underway. This year USDA has required an in-depth review of all producer eligibility forms before a producer can receive an advance payment. Osage County has many producer files that will need to be reviewed before sign up. This large amount of work will be a challenge for workload scheduling.

You can assist our office by calling for an appointment to sign up and certify your wheat. After obtaining some information from you, we will attempt to complete the required review and process your contracts so that you can receive your advance payment in the month you choose. This year the advance payment is 22%.

When the review is completed and all forms are ready for your signature, we will contact you to come to the office and sign up. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Together we will work to meet your needs as well as the additional requirements that we have to complete this year.

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The Osage County Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.