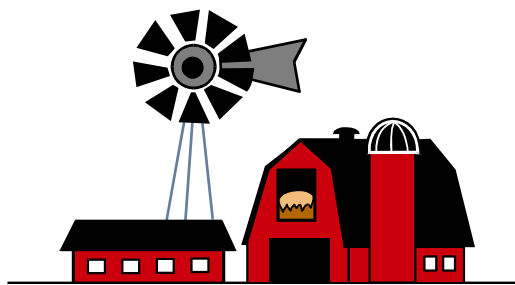


"PLAINS" TALK



PHILLIPS COUNTY
FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

March 2007

From the desk of

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office Hours – 8:00 to 4:30

Ronald L. Wyckoff

Phillips Co. FSA Office

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Phillipsburg, KS 67661

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NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INFORMATION

Sales closing date for 2007 crop year sorghum forage (cane), millet, and other spring crops is March 15, 2007.

Your crop production must be reported to FSA even if you do not file a notice of loss. **Accurate and detailed crop production records are a must.** Bring in your production evidences such as scale tickets and bale counts, “contemporaneous diary” or diary kept at the time, (usually on a calendar), or sales documents. **Always keep your records for three years.** Reporting your production is very important if you have NAP coverage. Failure to report by the deadline will result in an assigned yield being used and can be detrimental to your actual production history. **Report your 2006 production now.**

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - CRP

There will be no planned general CRP signup in 2007 or 2008.

Continuous CRP signup is still available, with signup ongoing at all times. There are attractive signing and practice incentive payments in addition to annual payments for continuous CRP contracts. The following are CRP practices available for environmentally sensitive areas which provide increased environmental and wildlife benefits.

- Riparian Buffers – planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses to catch pollutants before they reach streams or other water bodies, available on cropland and marginal pastureland.
- Filter Strips – strips of grass used to trap sediment and other pollutants before they reach streams or lakes.
- Grassed Waterways – strips of grass seeded within cropland where water tends to concentrate or flow off a field.
- Shelterbelts and Field Windbreaks – rows of trees and shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, provide protection to livestock, and farmsteads.
- Living Snow Fences – Similar to windbreaks but to help manage snow deposits by protecting buildings, roads, and other property.
- Contour Grass Strips – establish strips of grass to reduce erosion and control runoff.
- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife – develop areas of shallow water protected by tree, and grass buffer within crop fields to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds – planting of grass buffers around crop fields to provide food and cover for quail and upland birds.

Producers who currently have acreage in CRP need to be sure and follow the conservation plan of operations for their contract. Be sure to check your CRP fields and maintain them free of noxious weeds, and volunteer trees. Be sure to plant your wildlife food plots if the plan calls for them. CRP field inspections are conducted annually to ensure program compliance. Many fields that were inspected last year will have follow up inspections completed again this year.

FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL's) are loans to build new grain storage structures, make certain safety improvements to existing bins and in limited cases add capacity to existing bins. The interest rate for Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) approved in the month of February is 4.625 percent. The interest rate in effect on the month the FSFL is approved will remain in effect for the 7 years of the repayment period. Call or visit the office for loan requirements.

SIGN-UP FOR THE DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Sign-up is now underway for the 2007 program year. Deadline is June 1, 2007.

Advance direct payments of 22% can be requested at the time of signup 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.

Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. Any changes that could affect the farming operation, such as land ownership changes, operator changes, establishing or closing estates or other changes, need to be reported now so changes can be made prior to enrolling the farm in the DCP.

Acreage Reports

May 31, 2007 - final date for acreage reports for wheat, oats, and other small grains. NAP producers need to report alfalfa, native grass grazing (pastures) by the earlier of April 15 or 15 days before harvest or grazing begins.

Stop in now to report your acres if you have not already done so.

Complete acreage reports are required to earn most program benefits.

Late filed acreage reports require a fee of \$46 per farm.

PHILLIPS COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE

**Mark Losey
Jimmy DeBey
Warren Kelly
Kay Rose**

**Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Regular Member
Advisor**

The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Tree Shear Demonstration

In collaboration with the Solomon Valley RC&D Area, Inc. the North Central Prairie Weed Management Area (NCPWMA) is hosting a Tree Shear Demonstration just southeast of Cedar, Kansas at the home of Gary Kirchhoff. The event will begin at 10 a.m. on March 28th and a free lunch will be provided. Presentations on Range Management, conservation practices, and USDA programs will be provided by Natural Resource Conservation Service employees Toni Wesley, Steve Wingerson, and Larry Meili. Tony Ifland, Kansas Partners for Fish and Wildlife, will provide site and program information. Tree shear, tree saw and various other apparatus from South Central Bobcat of Hastings, Nebraska and Dougherty Forestry Manufacturing of Hinton, Oklahoma will be on site to provide a demonstration. The FREE meal will be provided by South Central Bobcat, Dougherty Forestry Manufacturing, Smith County State Bank, and the NCPWMA. An RSVP to 785-425-6647 for meal planning purposes is appreciated.

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, (AFIDA), requires foreign persons, including corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, associations or like entities who acquire, transfer or hold interests in Ag land, to report these holdings and changes to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports must be submitted within 90 days of the date the land is bought, sold or transferred. Forms for reporting are available at any FSA office. Failure to timely file an accurate report may result in a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 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.