



August 2007

Reno County FSA
18 East 7th
South Hutchinson, KS 67505
(620) 669-8161- Phone
(620) 669-5496 – Fax

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

County Committee
Joe Slucky, Chairperson
Myron Miller, Member
Ed Thayer, Member
Mary Anne Strohl, Advisor

Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff:

Farm Programs

Gwen Brown – PT
Bobbie Koontz - PT
Shirley Nelson – PT
Elizabeth Welty – PT
Clara Yoder – PT
Katy Sotomayor –PT
Audrey Johns - PT
Connie Pohl – PT
Aaron Fall - CED

Farm Loans

Katie Johnson – PT
Haley Eck – PT
Sheri Grinstead - FLO
Ray Bartholomew – FLM

Internet Web Sites

USDA – www.usda.gov
FSA – www.fsa.usda.gov
NRCS – www.nrcs.usda.gov

Planting Fruits and Vegetables

Farms enrolled into the DCP program are subject to certain restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables. The basic rule to remember is you can't plant FAVs on "base acres". Planting watermelons, sweet corn and other similar crops could cause a DCP violation. *The only FAV exception is if the farm, or the producer, has a documented history of planting FAVs.* Planting a PERENNIAL FAV on DCP base acres is a violation at the time the FAV is planted even if the FAV is destroyed without benefit before harvest. Further, planting a NON-PERENNIAL FAV on base acres is not a violation if it is destroyed without benefits before harvest. Verification of the destruction must be made by a producer paid FSA farm visitation. **Home gardens** of two (2) acres or less containing fruits and vegetables, planted for self use and/or consumption will not be considered as a FAV. However, if the garden acreage is greater than 2 acres, the entire garden acreage shall be considered as a FAV and could be subject to a DCP violation. As with any program, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for guidance and clarification.

Reno County FSA News

Commodity Loans Available

Low interest, 9-month loans on 2007 wheat, barley and oats are available until May 31. This marketing tool is a great way to utilize working capital while you wait for local prices to rise, pay off higher interest notes with low interest money, or purchase next year's inputs at reduced rates.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties. Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

Marketing Authorizations (CCC-681-1)

Producers may request that a commodity pledged as collateral for a CCC farm stored loan be released for delivery to a buyer before repayment of the loan. The entire loan quantity will be released and the delivery period is normally for 15 or 30 calendar days. At the time of the request, the producer must inform the office where the grain will be delivered. The loan repayment on the grain purchased by the buyer must be received from the buyer; otherwise, the buyer is violating clear title provisions.

Annual CRP Maintenance Reminder

CRP participants should review their Conservation Plans and address any CRP maintenance issues that could be a violation of the CRP contract. A maintenance rate is included in the annual rental payment to assist in the cost of maintaining the CRP acreage. Items to address include: trees, brush, noxious and non-noxious weeds, erosion problems, vehicles or implements parked on CRP. Failure to address these concerns could result in penalties and possibly contract termination.

Please remember that unauthorized mowing, haying, and grazing are not permitted on CRP acres. Fire lanes and fuel breaks are permitted if prior approval for the County Committee is obtained. As a reminder the CRP cover shall not be disturbed during the primary nesting this includes burning and spraying, spot treatment is permissible during the nesting season. The brood rearing season is **April 15 to July 15.**

Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The deadline for producers to apply for NAP coverage is September 1, 2007. Eligible crops include all small grain crops, except Oats, plus Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Speltz, and Turf Grass Sod. Producers who wish to apply for NAP coverage must complete the CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the administrative service fee before the deadline.

Foreign Investors Rule

Foreign owners of U.S. Agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to their local FSA office, Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in agricultural land.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need

Bank Account Changes

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers



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.

Reporting Farm Changes

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of *any* changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

FSA Guaranteed Loans

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g., banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions) with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Operating purposes. More information regarding FSA guaranteed loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center.

Farm Storage Facility

Low cost loans for storage loans facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

CRP Continuous Sign-up

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental maintenance, cost share, and perhaps incentive payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.