



RICE County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

MAY 2007

RICE County FSA

1480 W US HWY 56, RM 101
Lyons, Ks 67554-9209
TEL: (620) 257-5184
FAX: (620) 257-5653

Service Center Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Mark Engelland, Chairperson
Mary Lou Bush, Vice-Chairperson
Howard Behnke, Member
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Rodney Ackerman, CED
Judy Borgen, Program Technician
Tammy Clark, Program Technician
Tracy Minnis, Program Technician
Margaret Chain, Program Technician
Shelley Peverley, Temporary PT
Herb Unruh, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

LOAN RATES

COMMODITY	2007
Wheat	\$2.95/bu
Corn	\$1.99/bu
Soybeans	\$4.89/bu
Oats	\$1.37/bu
Gr. Sorghum	\$3.31/cwt
Sunflowers	\$8.32/cwt
Barley	\$1.85/bu

RECORD CHANGES

If you have **bought, sold, or renting different land**, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office within 30 days from the occurrence. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

May 28 – Closed for Memorial Day

May 31 – Final date to report 2007 wheat, oats, barley & triticale acreages.

May 31 – Final date to request a loan or LDP on 2006-crop milo, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.

July 4 – Closed for Independence Day

August 1 – Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, CRP, and any other land uses.

August 3 – Final date to signup for the 2007 DCP program without paying the \$100 late-file fee.

Sep 3 – Closed for Labor Day

Sep 30 – Deadline to enroll into the 2007 DCP Program to remain eligible for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments that includes a \$100 late-file.

SMALL GRAINS REPORTING DEADLINE MAY 31st

Reporting of your crop acres is required on farms that are enrolled in DCP, contain CRP acreages, have insured NAP crops, fruits and vegetables, or produce a crop for which a loan or LDP may later be requested.



We will be certifying entirely with GIS mapping. County Offices nationwide have been experiencing computer problems with the WEB. The process can be very slow, so be prepared for a longer stay in the office.

The final date to certify wheat, barley, oats and triticale is **May 31, 2007**. The final date for corn, milo, forage sorghum, double-crop, fallow, CRP and all other remaining crops is **August 1, 2007**.

FAILED ACREAGE CREDIT

Producers who consider destroying a crop that has failed because of disaster related conditions should request failed acreage credit, within 15 days from the date of disaster, by filing form CCC-576. The request must be filed before the disposition of the crop and the affected acreage must be reported as failed acreage. There are no provisions for late filing a CCC-576.

However, for the **2007 YEAR ONLY**, we have been granted a waiver to accept CCC-576's up to the final reporting date of May 31, 2007 for 2007 freeze damaged crops. This means that if prior to filing a CCC-576 the crop is destroyed, we could accept and approve the CCC-576 if the producer files it before May 31, 2007 provided the COC has knowledge or crop insurance data supports the approval.

The CCC-576 will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available. If the crop will be taken to harvest you will not need to file form FSA-576 with our office.

DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED TO AUGUST 3

NEW! The 2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup has been extended to August 3, 2007.

A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007. This extension applies only to the enrollment period, and does not extend the DCP contract period. Form CCC-509 must be filed with all signatures for a farm by September 30, 2007 to remain eligible for benefits.

2007 RECONSTITUTIONS

Reconstitutions involving tract and/or farm divisions & combinations are being processed at this time. The final date to apply for a 2007 reconstitution is August 1, 2007, but should be filed earlier. Recons usually result from a change of operator or owner on a farm or tract. Normally, farm divisions will result in base acreage being split in proportion to the resulting cropland acreage for each resulting farm. However, many times the LANDOWNER DESIGNATION method can be used to divide the base acreage as agreed to by all parties prior to an ownership transfer. This method works well with small acreages that will be devoted to residential sites, etc. Contact the FSA office if you have questions regarding this method.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE (FAV) RESTRICTIONS

Farms enrolled into the DCP program are subject to certain restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables (FAV's). The basic rule to remember is if you plant FAV's such as watermelons, sweet corn and other similar crops on "base acres" it could result in a DCP violation. *The only FAV exception is if the farm, or the producer, has a documented history of planting FAV's. Please contact our office before planting any fruits and vegetables.*

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA Office and we will be happy to make arrangements that are needed.

REMINDERS

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings to the FSA office in the county where the land is located. Those buying or selling must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction.

RECONSTITUTIONS

To be effective for 2007, farm combinations and divisions must be requested no later than **August 1, 2007**. A request for a reconstitution after 2007 DCP payments have been issued will NOT be processed for 2007 unless all payments disbursed by FSA for the farm or farms have been refunded.

NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2007

We were informed of an increase to the charge for completion of measurement services. This includes bin measurements or cropland verifications usually associated with late-filed acreage reports. The current charge is a minimum of \$46 for the first hour, plus \$8 for each additional half hour. This charge will be applied on a per farm basis.

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY

No FSA benefits are available until all necessary Payment Eligibility forms have been completed and determinations made by the County Committee. To meet payment eligibility criteria for 2007, you must make a significant contribution to the farming operation of 1 or more of the following: 1) Land, capital and/or equipment, and, 2) "active personal" labor and/or management. Your share of the profits or losses must be commensurate with your contribution to the operation, and your contributions must be at risk.

In addition to meeting "Actively Engaged" rules, producers that cash rent land must also meet "Cash-Rent Tenant" rules. CASH-RENT TENANTS must provide a significant contribution to the operation of: 1) active personal labor or 2) active personal management and equipment.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Control trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

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.

CRP MAINTENANCE

Some general responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- o Annual reporting of CRP acres by August 1st.
- o Haying, grazing and harvesting are not allowed.
- o All stands must be maintained to control noxious weeds, trees, or undesirable vegetation. Trees are prohibited unless it is in your CPO.
- o Maintenance activities may not be performed during the primary nesting & brood rearing season of April 15 through July 15.
- o Some prohibited uses include: asphalt/concrete plants, lagoons, trash disposal, storage of equipment or hay, permanent road/trails, livestock feed storage, oil wells, communication towers, wind generators, cosmetic mowing, mowing strips for hunting, and no buildings houses, sheds, or structures.
- o Basically ANY use must be approved before the activity begins unless it is in your conservation plan.

2007 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Signature authorities are being reviewed to ensure an individual signs documents in the appropriate manner.

INDIVIDUALS may grant other individuals the authority to sign on their behalf by signing an FSA-211 (FSA Power of Attorney). Spouses may sign on behalf of each other unless written notification denying this authority has been provided or for Price Support loan documents an FSA-211 is required.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP any partner may sign documents and bind all members of the partnership unless the partnership agreement designates a member or restricts signature authority.

CORPORATION, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY & OTHER SIMILAR ENTITIES an officer, member or agent must be designated the authority to sign in the corporate charter, bylaws, partnership agreement, signed corporate minutes or a resolution by a Corporation's board of directors. If the Entity wishes to give Power-of-Attorney to another individual, the resolution must state that the signature authority may be re-delegated.

ESTATE, TRUST, CONSERVATORSHIP OR GUARDIANSHIP documents (orders of appointment, court-approved certificate or letter of administration) signed or certified by an officer of the issuing court that the evidence is in full force and effect, trust agreement, or last will and testament that established the trust or similar document approved by FSA's Regional Attorney.

WHEN SIGNING for another individual and/or entity please use the "by" or "for" and your capacity or title. Such as: John Doe by Fred Smith, POA; Fred Smith, POA for John Doe; by Fred Smith, POA; John Smith Rev Trust by Fred Smith, Trustee; John Doe Estate by Fred Smith, Executor.

CLEARING LAND OR ALTERING WETLANDS

If you are planning on any land clearing, drainage, filling, existing ditch clean out, leveling or dredging, remember that you need to come into the FSA office and fill out form AD-1026 **BEFORE** you do the work. Then NRCS will determine if the action you want to carry out can be done without jeopardizing eligibility for our programs and other USDA programs. Also, if you have highly erodible fields on any of the land you own or operate, you must be actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system in order to remain eligible for our programs.