



RICE County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

JUNE 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

Farm Loan Programs:
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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 ARE 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

July 4 – Closed for Independence Day

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

August 1 – Final date to submit nominations for the 2007 COC Election.

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

Sept 3 – Closed for Labor Day

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

FEED GRAIN REPORTING DEADLINE AUGUST 1st

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.



The final date to report your 2007 corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP and other land uses is **August 1, 2007**.

We realize the weather has been very uncooperative for getting your crops planted. We ask that once you are complete with planting, to call for an appointment so we can get your report completed. We have a very short timeframe for getting feed grain reports loaded into the computer system.

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.

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 ENDS AUGUST 3, 2007

The 2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup was 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.

County Committee Election

This fall, producers in LAA-2, the southern and southwestern portion of the county, will hold its election. Mark Engelland currently represents this area, which consists of Raymond, Center, Atlanta, Bell, Valley, Sterling and West Washington townships.

Each County Committee (COC) member is elected by the eligible producers in their area for a 3 year term. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them, including DCP, price support and farm loan programs, and conservation and disaster programs.

Nomination petition forms were recently mailed by our State Office and are now being accepted for any eligible voter to be a candidate for the COC from LAA-2. FSA is required to ensure diversity on the County Committee and solicit and accept nominations from all eligible producers in the election area, including women and minority nominees. Election guidelines and other election information are available on the internet at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/>

Nominating Petitions must be returned to this office by August 1, 2007. Voters in LAA-2 will be mailed a ballot this fall (November) and directly elect a County Committee member and alternates. December 3, 2007 is the last day to return completed ballots.

Conduct Your USDA Business On-Line

If you have access to the Internet and have an e-mail account you can obtain an e-Authentication Level 2 Account and conduct some of your USDA business on-line. Access www.fsa.usda.gov, then click on "Online Services" at the top of the page. Instructions are provided on how to obtain a Level 2 eAuth account. Once the account is set up, you can access eLDP, eDCP, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry, eForms, and eRepresentative. Obtain more information and a brochure at your local FSA office.

REMINDERS

FILE CCC-633EZ, PAGE 1 FOR LDPs

Producers are reminded to make sure they have a signed CCC-633EZ, page 1 on file prior to losing beneficial interest in any commodity. We mailed this form with DCP contracts in December 2006 and have several on file. However, it is the producer's responsibility to ensure their form is signed and on file before beneficial interest is lost.

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.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

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.

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in South Hutchinson will be coming to the Rice County FSA Office on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. They will be here to answer questions regarding FSA Farm Loan Programs and what is available. They will also be able to assist current borrowers with questions they may have. **Please contact their office at 620-669-8161 if you want to make an appointment.** The office staff consists of:

Ray Bartholomew, Farm Loan Manager; Sheri Grinstead, Farm Loan Officer; Haley Eck, Program Technician; and Katie Johnson, Program Technician.

Below are some current items that have recently come up:

EMERGENCY LOANS: Emergency loans are available if a natural disaster has been declared (disaster declaration) in the county in which you operate a farm or ranch, or in a county adjoining such an area. Rice County is eligible under Amendments 1, 2, and 4 as an adjoining county and a primary disaster county under Amendment 5 of the Presidential Disaster Designation M1699. FSA is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to the tornados, strong storms and flooding from May 4 through May 18, 2007. To qualify for an Emergency (EM) Loan, an applicant must be an established family farm operator, provide evidence of having a qualifying production or physical loss of at least 30% and be unable to obtain suitable credit from a source other than FSA. Current disaster designations are: **(if a county is listed under M1699 multiple times, then latest application deadline applies)**

M1699 - Primary Disaster County: Kiowa. Contiguous Disaster Counties: Barber, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ford, Pratt. **Deadline to apply:** January 7, 2008.

M1699 Amend #1- Primary Disaster Counties: Edwards, Pratt, and Stafford. Contiguous Disaster Counties: Barber, Barton, Ford, Hodgeman, Kingman, Kiowa, Pawnee, Reno, **Rice**. **Deadline to apply:** January 11, 2008.

M1699 Amend #2- Primary Disaster Counties: Barton, Osborne, Ottawa, and Phillips. Contiguous Disaster Counties: Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellis, Ellsworth, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Norton, Pawnee, **Rice**, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Smith, Stafford. **Deadline to apply:** January 18, 2008.

M1699 Amend #4- Primary Disaster Counties: Comanche, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jackson, Lincoln, Osage, Pottawatomie, and Wabaunsee. Contiguous Disaster Counties: Atchison, Barber, Barton, Brown, Clark, Clay, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Jefferson, Kiowa, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Mitchell, Morris, Nemaha, Osborne, Ottawa, **Rice**, Riley, Russell, Saline, Shawnee. **Deadline to apply:** January 24, 2008

M1699 Amend #5- Primary Disaster Counties: Clay, Cloud, Leavenworth, Lyon, Reno, **Rice**, Saline, and Shawnee. Contiguous Disaster Counties: Atchison, Barton, Chase, Coffey, Dickinson, Douglas, Ellsworth, Geary, Greenwood, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Johnson, Kingman, Lincoln, Marion, McPherson, Mitchell, Morris, Osage, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Republic, Riley, Sedgwick, Stafford, Wabaunsee, Washington, Wyandotte. **Deadline to apply:** January 25, 2008

YOUTH LOANS: FSA has a loan program to help eligible youth to finance livestock and equipment purchases for livestock and crop projects, or for operating expenses to run the project. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.00. Projects must be part of an organized and supervised program of work, and must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor. The project must also produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience