



SEDGWICK COUNTY FSA

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HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Staff meetings-Tuesdays at 8:30 A.M

County Committee:

Brian Pauly, Chairperson
Duane Carmichael, Vice Chairperson
Geri Farber, Regular Member

Meetings- 2nd Monday of every Month

Staff:

Jane Becker, Temp PT
Anita Breth, PT
Angie Dealy, PT
Shevell Myers, PT
Mary Rajewski, PT
Lori Schmeissner, PT

Loan Manager:

Gary Nuss

Executive Director:

Sean Rafferty

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SEDGWICK COUNTY FSA FARMLINE

June 2007



Are you planning to participate in the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program?

Sign-up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program is currently available. Farms must be annually enrolled into a DCP contract if benefits are desired. A CCC-509 (DCP) contract must be submitted with signatures from both owners and operators sharing in payments by August 3, 2007. Contracts with signatures obtained by the county office after August 3, 2007, but before Sept 30, 2007, are considered timely filed, but will be assessed a late-file sign-up charge of \$100/farm.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage 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.



CROP CERTIFICATIONS

The 2002 Farm Bill requires all cropland on a farm to be reported as a condition for receiving payments under the Direct and Countercyclical Program, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, Conservation Reserve Program, as well as

loan deficiency payments and marketing assistance loans. Please be aware that August 1 is the final date to report acreages for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, pulse crops and CRP acres. Crops reported after the deadline will be assessed a late-file charge of at least \$46/farm.

FOREIGN INVESTORS 90-DAY REPORTING 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 the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.



Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. If interested, please contact Gary Nuss or Nick Bergkamp at 620-221-2060.



COC Election

The election for a county committee (COC) Election member this year will be for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 comprised of Lincoln, Kechi, Payne, Wichita, Minneha, Waco, Riverside, Gypsum, Salem and Rockford. Eligible voters must be of legal voting age, and have an interest in farmland as an owner, operator, tenant, sharecropper, or be eligible to participate in agency programs.

Ballots listing the candidates will be mailed on Nov 2 to all eligible voters. Only eligible farmers and ranchers within the LAA which has the vacant seat will vote in this year's election.

In order to be counted, ballots must be completed, signed and returned to the local FSA office by Dec. 3, 2007. Unsigned ballots, those received or postmarked after Dec. 3, 2007, and those incorrectly completed, will be discarded.

*Final Date to certify feed grains,
oilseeds, cotton, and CRP acres
is August 1!*

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE LIMITATIONS (FAVs)



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. Please keep in mind the following:*

1. 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.
2. 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 whenever they have a question or concern as it relates to FSA program benefits.



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Low interest FSA farm loans are available, while funds last, at interest rates between 3.75% and 5.375%. Use the funds to refinance debt, purchase land, equipment and livestock, or for help with annual operating expenses with no money down. Special opportunities are also available for beginning farmers. If interested, please contact Gary Nuss or Nick Bergkamp at 620-221-2060.

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