

October 24, 2007

Washington County FSA News

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Washington County FSA
705 B Street
Washington, KS 66968
(785) 325-2253
(785) 325-2657 – FAX

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

County Committee
Caroline Peterson, Chairperson
Dolores Jueneman, Vice-Chairperson
Eileen Hansen, Regular Member
Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff
Cindy Zimmerman, FLM
Brandy Weber, FLO
Midge Miller, PT
Marilyn Laflen, PT
Marcy Elliott, TPT
Brenda Heck, PT
Dawn Bargman, PT
Debbie Voelker, PT
Dianne Garber, PT
Linda Beikmann, CPT
Rob Larkin, CED

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1 – Final date to turn in milk production for MILCX

November 12 – Office Closed

Veterans Day

November 22 - Office Closed

Thanksgiving

December 1 – NAP closing date all grasses, alfalfa, mixed forage, and various fruits

December 3 – Final date to return ballots for COC election

On-going – Continuous CRP, Farm Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

Washington County Farm Service Agency would like to remind foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency. Foreigner investors buying or selling land must report such transaction within 90 days of the date of the sale. Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. Producers can now signup for the quantity portion of the CDP program. The signup dates for the quality portion of the CDP program will be announced at a later date.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

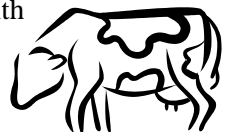
For more information on the Crop Disaster Program or to schedule an appointment, contact the Washington County FSA Office at (785) 325-2253 or stop by the office at 705 B Street, Washington, KS 66968.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Both programs have a separate \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

LIP - The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. The livestock must have died no later than 60 days from the disaster event ending date, but before February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, catfish, chickens, crawfish, deer, ducks, equine, geese, goats, reindeer, sheep, swine, and turkeys that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Eligible livestock for contract growers includes poultry and swine. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

LCP - The 2005-2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Livestock owners must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the disaster event. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-901 application to prove the feed loss or any additional feed costs occurring as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.



For additional information or to schedule an appointment on the Livestock Compensation Program and/or the Livestock Indemnity Programs, please contact the Washington County FSA Office at (785) 325-2253.

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 STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Changes in farming operations are required to be reported to the FSA Office to ensure program benefits are earned by the eligible participants. Failure to report changes can result in the loss of program benefits as well as additional penalties. Common changes are but not limited to:

- change in operator(s)
- change in landowners
- creation of trusts or other entities by producers
- building of houses or other structures on cropland

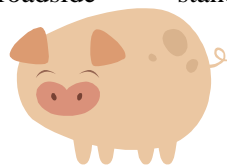
YOUTH LOAN PROJECTS

The school year has started and many students are planning their 4-H, FFA or other organized youth group projects... Consider FSA youth loans for financing these endeavors. Why...because there is no better time than the present to teach financial responsibility and establish a good credit history.



Eligibility for a rural youth loan requires that the applicant be between the ages of 10 and 20 and a US citizen. Applicants must live in a town of less than 10,000 people and prove they are unable to secure a loan elsewhere to conduct a modest income-producing project. An advisor must be identified who will provide technical supervision and assistance, typically a High School Ag Science teacher or 4-H leader. The advisor and parent or legal guardian must provide a recommendation and acknowledgement of the project on the application.

FSA loans cannot exceed \$5000 and are available to sponsor different types of projects in livestock, crop production, lawn and garden services, repair shops and roadside stands.



Important note: Should the borrower default on the loan, advisors are in no way financially responsible for the obligation.

For more information on youth loans, contact the Washington County Farm Loan Program Office at (785) 325-2253.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.