



February 2008

Mitchell County News

Mitchell County
USDA Service Center

Mitchell County FSA
118 West Main
Beloit, KS 67420
785-738-5172
FAX: 785-738-2768
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Carolyn Finney
Barry McPeak
Jane Wallace

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of Month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff
Jamie Powell CED
Marilyn Seehafer PT
Darnell Winkel PT
Debra Stalcup PT
Brenda Hollaway PT
Rachel Hendrickson, COT

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County Office Committee (COC) election for this fall will be for the eastern third of the county. It is not too early to be considering candidates for the upcoming election. Nominations are encouraged from minorities and underrepresented groups.

NEW FARM BILL

2007 was the final crop year of the current Farm Bill. Lawmakers are working on new rules; however there is no indication what the outcome will be. When the current laws expire, the farm programs in effect now may or may not continue. We will keep you posted of developments.

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP CONTINUES

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP sign-up for quantity loss began October 15, 2007.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance for crops planted before Dec. 31, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year**. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities for multiple years; payments will be based on the highest year of disaster benefits.

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 these and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAMS (CRP)

CRP acres are covered by a binding contract. CRP must not be hayed, grazed, harvested for seed or any other benefit. Also, weeds and trees must be controlled. Those that had trees and trails reported in the past need to make sure the same problem is not reoccurring. If trees or trails are found now on CRP acres, it will be treated as a violation.

CRP acres cannot be used to store machinery, vehicles or bales. Gravel, sand, and oil can not be taken from these acres. CRP acres can not have trails, paths or lanes. Mowing strips or lanes in CRP is prohibited. Lanes or strips are considered hunting lanes and are a violation of the contract. Any activity that disturbs the permanent cover is prohibited.

Penalties for violations include a refund of all previous rental payments, cost shares, interest on both, and liquidated damages.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact the County Executive Director in your local Farm Service Agency.

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 Dec. 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Both programs have a separate \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP): Covers grazing losses, due to natural disasters for Crop Years 2005, 2006, and 2007 - Most producers in Mitchell County will be dealing with crop year 2006 grazing losses.

Eligible livestock are beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, and horses used in a commercial operation. If you have other types of livestock, call to see if they are eligible.

You will need to know the number of livestock owned on January 1, 2006 that were intended to be put on pastures for the 2006 grazing season of May 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006. **PROOF OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED.** *Some items to verify numbers could be: calf sales receipts, bank asset ledgers or financial statements, or veterinary records.*

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Covers livestock deaths due to natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and Dec. 31 2007; including deaths due the ice and snow storm that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

Eligible livestock are beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and horses used in a commercial operation. If you have other types of livestock, call to see if they are eligible. **PROOF OF LIVESTOCK DEATHS ARE REQUIRED.** *Some items to verify deaths could be: dead wagon receipts, veterinary records, or 3rd party verification*

Foreign Investors 90 Day Reporting Rule

Foreign investors acquiring or transferring any interest in agricultural land exceeding 10 acres are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days. Failure to disclose this interest can result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the land's market value.

Acreage Reports

FSA is ready to certify your wheat acres. **May 31, 2008 - is the final date** for acreage reports for wheat, oats, and other small grains. NAP producers need to report alfalfa, native grass grazing (pastures) by the earlier of April 15 or 15 days before harvest or grazing begins.

Stop in now to report your acres. Planting dates are needed to complete an acreage report. Complete acreage reports are required to earn most program benefits. **Late filed acreage reports require a fee of \$46 per farm.**

SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Spouses are automatically able to sign most FSA program documents on behalf of one another without a power of attorney form on file. If you wish to deny your spouse the authority to sign for you, written notification must be furnished to the appropriate FSA Office in which you have an interest

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

OPERATING LOANS: FSA offers direct Farm Operating Loans which may be used to finance livestock enterprises, machinery purchases, etc. FSA can finance up to \$200,000.00 with a term of up to seven years at the fixed or variable interest rate available at the time of loan approval. The effective fixed interest rate as of February 1, 2008, is 3.875%.

REAL ESTATE LOANS: FSA offers several direct loan programs available to purchase real estate with our Farm Ownership Loan Program.

Beginning Farmer Downpayment – FSA will finance 40% of the purchase price at a 4% interest rate for 15 years. With this program the applicant is required to have a 10% down payment. The remaining balance, not to exceed 50% of the purchase price, may be obtained from a commercial lender or a private party on a 30 year term. The lender or private party would secure the first mortgage on the property.

Joint Financing Plan – FSA will finance up to 50% of the purchase price at a 5% interest rate for up to a 40 year term. A minimum of 50% of the purchase price may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party at rates and terms agreed upon by the lender and applicant. The lender or private party would secure the first mortgage on the real estate.

Direct Farm Ownership – FSA will finance up to 100% of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less, up to \$200,000.00. FSA will finance this loan up to a 40 year term at the fixed or variable interest rate available at the time of loan approval. The effective fixed interest rate as of February 1, 2008, is 5.00%.

If you have a need or interest in any of the FSA loan programs, please contact Mark Herrmann; Jennifer Dlabal; or Jackie Boden at (785) 483-5618 or stop by the Russell Co. FSA office. We would also be happy to meet with you at the Mitchell Co. FSA office by appointment.

Reminders

	All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known throughout the year.
	Contact FSA before breaking land, removing tree areas, removing field boundaries removing farm stored loan grain or planting any crop that might be a fruit or vegetable on contract acreage.
	Check your CRP Plan of operations and remember to get food plots planted if they are in your plan.
	Weeds/trees must be controlled on Conservation Reserve acres.
February 18	Office Closed
May 26	Office Closed
August 1	Last day to report fall crops.
Continues	Rural Youth Loans for 10-20 Year Olds
Continues	Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants
Continues	Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
 Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
 USDA - www.usda.gov
 Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account - www.eauth.egov.usda.gov



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