



March 2008

# Saline County News

## Disaster Program News

### **Crop Disaster Program**

After many changes and considerable waiting for numbers, the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is up and running. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 will be able to select **one of those years** for payment. *Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) will be eligible for CDP*

**We will be taking applications by appointment. Please call in and schedule your appointment.**

### **Livestock Disaster Programs**

There are 2 programs authorized under the Disaster Bill. Counties have to have been designated a disaster county in order to be eligible during the time period of January 1, 2005 through 2007.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – provides for assistance to eligible livestock producers for deaths directly related to a natural 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

**Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** - provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed or pasture losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters. After many changes to this program it looks like it is ready.

- Livestock producers will need to be able to provide documentation on the number of head they owned at the beginning of the disaster period. (Example – Jan, 1 2005 or Jan, 1 2006)
- Lease agreements for pastures must also be provided
- 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.

- Call to make an appointment!**

### **Dairy Disaster Program**

This program will help dairy producers recover production losses resulting from a variety of adverse weather conditions in the last few years. Dairy producers who suffered production losses that occurred between Jan, 1 2005 and Feb 28, 2007 because of qualifying natural disasters can apply for benefits. Additional information is available at your local FSA office.

## County Committee Election LAA-3

**Congratulations** to Jane MacDonald for being re-elected to serve on the Saline County Committee. Jane will represent LAA-3 for the next 3 years.

Each County Committee (COC) member is elected by the eligible producers in their area. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them.

### **NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

We welcome Deb Cornelius to the Saline County Farm Program Team as Program Technician. Her duties will involve the Conservation Program as well as others. We also welcome Rick Bush as our new Farm Loan Officer.

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to purchase and install eligible storage facilities, to permanently affix drying or handling equipment, safety equipment or to remodel existing facilities. Real estate liens are required for loans that exceed \$50,000. Loans are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required.

### **Changing Banks**

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, make sure you let us know or your payment will be delayed.

Saline County  
USDA Service Center

Saline County FSA  
1410 E Iron Ave, Ste 12  
Salina KS 67401-3285  
785-825-8269 (phone)  
785-825-1533 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

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

County Committee  
Jane MacDonald  
Mike Jensen  
Leslie Berndt

County Committee meets  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month at  
9:00 a.m.

Farm Program Staff  
David J Sweany, CED  
Pat Burt  
Jody Turner  
Jeanine White  
Deb Cornelius

Farm Loan Program Staff  
Bill Mahanay, FLM  
Rick Bush, FLO  
Kim Fine  
Linda Hughes  
Tosha Schlichenmayer

### **WEBSITES**

FSA - [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Kansas FSA -  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)  
USDA - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Obtain a Level 2 e-  
Authentication Account -  
[www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)

### **CRP MAINTENANCE**

With Spring just around the corner you need to be making plans to check your CRP acreage for maintenance needs. Unplanned trees, noxious weeds, roads and other prohibited activities can result in termination of your CRP contract and repayment of your CRP benefits.

It doesn't take long to check your CRP and make sure you are in compliance with your conservation plan. If you have questions about your plan, contact your local FSA office to make sure you stay in compliance.

**NEW FARM BILL???**

At this time there is no farm bill. The House and Senate have each passed a version of a new farm bill – but will have to iron out the differences before we see anything that we can work with. So that will probably result in a Spring time sign up for a farm program. Hopefully it will be before then but at this point we don't have anything to make a projection.

**SELLING OR BUYING CRP REQUIRES EXTRA ATTENTION**

If you are buying or selling CRP make sure you visit your FSA office frequently during the process! CRP contracts have to have a succession in interest from the new owners within 60 days of the sales closing date or the previous owner will have to refund all payments made to them from the contract. This information is in the CRP-1 appendix you receive at the time of enrollment. Failure on the part of the buyer to succeed to the contract will result in the previous owner owing the government a substantial amount of money. Also, be sure as a buyer you are aware of what the Conservation Plan of Operations is going to require you to do. Often there are annual food plots planted on the CRP. Maintenance is always an issue and if you don't know what you are buying – it could cost you a lot to get the CRP in compliance. If you are unsure about the process call or visit your local FSA office for the details.

**FSA Farm Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, supplies and carryover operating expenses. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

**FSA is currently offering direct real estate loans with fixed interest rates ranging from 4.875% to 5.00%; direct operating loans (to finance machinery, equipment, livestock, production expenses, etc.) with a fixed interest rate of 3.75%; and emergency loans are available for specific disaster designations in the area.**

**The guaranteed interest assistance program will allow FSA to pay 4.00% of an eligible customer's interest expense on guaranteed operating loans for a period of 5 years.**

If you are having trouble getting commercial credit at affordable rates and terms, please contact the Farm Loan Program personnel in the Salina County Office about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.



<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
	Taking Certifications by Appt
?????	No Farm Bill to date – stay tuned for updates
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
March 15	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

**FSA Youth Loans**

FSA makes loans of up to \$5,000 to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

**Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.