

USDA



Farm Service Agency

District 8 - Barber - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray - Hodgeman - Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Stafford

July 2007

FSA's 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE CHECK REVIEW

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using the same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

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 interest rate changes each month. The January interest rate is 4.5 percent.

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.

AUGUST 1 IS THE FINAL DATE TO REPORT CORN, COTTON, GRAIN SORGHUM, CRP, AND FALLOW.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency if you require special accommodations. Contact your local FSA office to make the request.

RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION DUE AUG. 1

County Farm Service Agency committees are seeking interested farmers to serve as candidates for the local county committee election to be held this fall. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the FSA county offices by close of business on Aug. 1.

FSA county committees make decisions on commodity price support loans, conservation programs, disaster programs, employing county executive directors and other significant agricultural issues.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements. The person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by the agency, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. A complete list of eligibility requirements is posted online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/coc_elig06.htm.

Nomination forms are available at the FSA county office at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

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 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

ECP AVAILABLE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency announced that the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is available in certain counties affected by tornadoes and flooding.

FSA will implement ECP in Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Pratt, Saline, and Stafford counties. Applications will be accepted and on-site inspections completed. However, funding is not available at this time. We fully expect ECP funding at a later time.

ECP provides emergency cost-share assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Participants can receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Practices approved in these counties include: removing debris from farmland; grading, shaping, releveling, measures; restoring permanent fences; restoring conservation structures such as windmills; and field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts.

Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

There is a payment limitation of \$200,000 per "person" per disaster.

Producers with eligible damage in approved counties may file an application for cost-share assistance at their local FSA County Office from July 23 through August 22.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

Youth 10 to 20 years old can gain valuable business experience by obtaining a Rural Youth Loan to establish and operate income producing projects in conjunction with participation in 4-H, FFA, or a similar club. Contact the USDA Farm Service Agency at the USDA Service Center for more details.

CONDUCT BUSINESS ON-LINE

Producers can obtain an eAuthentication level 2 account and conduct USDA business on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from home. This access requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to a USDA Service Center for identification verification. You must have an e-mail address.

Once access is obtained, producers can conduct USDA business online such as eLDP's (Loan Deficiency Payments), eForms, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry and other programs that will become available electronically in the future.

LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for more than three years but not more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers are identified as those who belong to a socially disadvantaged group.

