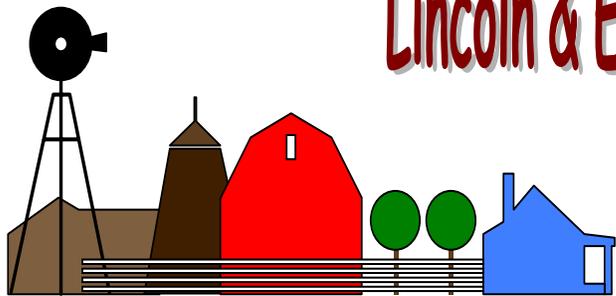


Lincoln & Ellsworth County FSA News



JULY 2007

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Lincoln County FSA Committee

Dale Hlad, Chairperson
Nick Biggs, Vice-Chairperson
Dale Rosebrook, Regular Member
Marylyn S Bell, Advisor
Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of month

Ellsworth County FSA Committee

Stanton Janssen, Chairperson
Frank Toman, Vice-Chairperson
Lucas Janzen, Regular Member
Kathryn Kohls, Advisor
Committee meets 1st Wednesday of month

2007 DCP Signup & Reminders

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program was extended to August 3, 2007. After this deadline, a \$100 late-filing fee must be paid per farm.

Producers who have already enrolled in DCP are reminded that any operator or ownership changes, share changes, etc., that affect the 2007 DCP contract should be reported to the FSA office immediately. If changes occur, and the 2007 DCP contract is not revised or not all required signatures are obtained by September 28, 2007, all producers on the farm will be ineligible for payments.

Farm operators are required to control weeds (noxious and non-noxious) and soil erosion on base acreage. Weeds should be prevented from producing viable seed by tillage, mowing, or spraying.

Direct Deposit (or EFT)

Farm operators and owners should inform the FSA office immediately about changes in bank accounts, etc., that will affect the direct deposit (electronic funds transfer - EFT) of farm program payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Items

--REMINDERS: CRP participants must ensure all CRP plan requirements are being completed. Are scheduled cover crops for new CRP acres and wildlife food plots being planted timely? Are weeds, especially noxious weeds (musk thistles, johnson grass, bindweed, & sericea lespedeza), and volunteer trees and shrubs, being controlled? Are there roads/trails, parked vehicles or farm equipment, hay bales, or ditches present on CRP acreage, which are prohibited? CRP spot checks will be performed to monitor these items.

--HAYING/GRAZING: FSA is currently accepting written requests for “managed” CRP haying or grazing to begin July 16. Most CRP producers who used the hay/graze provisions in past years will be under the “old” rules allowing eligible CRP acres to be hayed or grazed on a three-year rotational basis. However, the rules have changed for new CRP contracts and those old contracts that did not have the “managed” provisions before. These “new” rules basically limit eligible CRP acreage to be hayed once within a ten-year period, or grazed twice in a ten-year period. A 25% payment reduction applies to the actual acres hayed or grazed. After written requests are approved, CRP haying must be completed by August 15, but grazing can continue until November 12 if forage limits are maintained.

--NEW CRP OFFERS: Currently, it appears that no “general” CRP signup will be held this year. However, CRP signup is on-going for “continuous” practices such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), contour and terrace grass strips, windbreaks, and quail buffers. Many of these practices offer a \$100 per acre signup incentive up front, and higher cost-share and annual rental payments. The only limited acreage allocation at this time is for quail buffers.

2007-Crop Acreage Reports

AUGUST 1, 2007, is the final date to file acreage reports for 2007 corn, grain sorghum (milo), soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, and all other crop and land uses. Late-filing fees and other restrictions apply to acreage reports filed after the deadline. Under current farm law, complete acreage reports are required for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP), to obtain a commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP), etc.. FSA measurement services are available for a fee if you are unsure of your acreage.

Register Livestock Premises at FSA

FSA is working with the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) to make premise identification registration easy for livestock producers. FSA is available to assist with on-line recording of livestock premises (generally headquarter location). This registration is the first step to implement the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to protect animal agriculture. NAIS can then provide livestock owners and health officials a rapid trace-back of animals in case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

FSA Loan Eligibility and Federal Debt

Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA), a person or entity with outstanding federal debt in “delinquent” status is not eligible for certain loans and other “loan” programs. This rule pertains to commodity loans, LDP’s, FSA farm ownership and/or operating loans, the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program, and other FSA loan programs.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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2005-2007 Disaster Assistance

Recently, legislation was passed that provides about \$3 billion in total disaster aid for farmers and ranchers who qualify for benefits in 2005, 2006, or 2007. The two major disaster programs that local producers could qualify for include the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). No signup periods have been announced yet but the following provides preliminary information.

It appears that CDP will only apply to crops losses which were covered by crop insurance or the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Also, producers can only select crop losses in a single year – 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops planted before February 28, 2007. Production and/or quality losses must be due to natural disaster or related conditions and be in excess of 35% of expected production. The payment rate will be 42% of an established average price.

LCP is intended to compensate livestock producers for feed (forage) losses, resulting from natural disaster conditions. Producers in disaster designated counties, with qualifying losses, can only select one year loss. The LCP payment rate will be at 61% of a national rate set for each type of livestock.

2007 Loans and LDP's

The following are county loan rates applicable to commodity loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for 2007-crops:

| | Ellsworth | Lincoln |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Wheat (bu) | \$2.93 | \$2.93 |
| Oats (bu) | \$1.37 | \$1.37 |
| Barley (bu) | \$1.85 | \$1.80 |
| Corn (bu) | \$2.05 | \$1.97 |
| Milo (cwt) | \$3.32 | \$3.37 |
| Soybeans (bu) | \$4.86 | \$4.83 |
| Sunflowers(cwt) | \$8.39 | \$8.39 |

Loans are available for farm-stored or warehouse-stored 2007 crops. Crop loans offer low interest rates and can be repaid at any time, without penalty, during the 9-month period. Loans can also be repaid at the Posted County Price (PCP). When repaid at a PCP lower than the loan rate, the pay-back may be less than principal plus interest resulting in a marketing gain. Producers have the option to "lock-in" a certain PCP for a repayment rate. The locked-in rate will be in effect for 60 days, except that it will always expire 14 days before loan maturity.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) are direct payments to producers when the PCP is less than the loan rate. Like crop loans, producers must have beneficial interest (title to, control of, and risk in the crop) to receive LDP benefits. However, filing Page 1 of form CCC-633 EZ before harvest, or at least before beneficial interest is lost, allows a producer to remain eligible for LDP benefits if otherwise eligible.

With the current levels of commodity prices, it is likely LDP's will not be available.

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

September 4, 2007, is the first deadline to obtain 2007 NAP coverage. NAP coverage can help offset severe crop losses for non-insurable crops due to adverse weather or related conditions. Locally, most NAP coverage has been for native grass pasture, alfalfa, sweet sorghum and sudan. The cost is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 for multi-county interests. Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that good record keeping is required for acceptable production evidence. Also, producers must report any crop loss within 15 days from each disaster occurrence, and before harvest or disposition of the crop.

FSA County Committee Elections

FSA is seeking nominations for the County Committee elections to be held by mail ballot from November 2 through December 3, 2007. Each year, an election is held to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of each county. Most farm operators and owners with farming interests in the areas indicated below are eligible to nominate, be nominated, and hold office, but some exceptions do apply.

In Ellsworth County, the FSA Committee election will involve the townships of Ash Creek, Green Garden, Lincoln, Palacky, Thomas, and Valley.

In Lincoln County, the election will include the townships of Cedron, Grant, Golden Belt, Hanover, Highland, Pleasant, and Vesper.

FSA-669A nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the FSA office, and must be completed and returned by August 1, 2007.

Foreign Land Ownership

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.