



McPherson County FSA News

Farm Service Agency

JULY 2007

McPherson County FSA
200 S Centennial Drive
McPherson, KS 67460
TEL: (620) 241-1836
FAX: (620)241-6311

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

County Committee
Michael Patrick, Chairperson
Dixie Mattas, Vice-Chairperson
Greg Goering, Member
COC meets the 2nd Wed. of the month @ 8:30 a.m.

Employee Information

Michael Westerman, CED
Jan Hake, Program Technician
Kathy Meacham, Program Technician
Pat Regier, Program Technician
Kristy Nattier, Program Technician
Toni Belshe, Temporary PT
Dan Mason, Field Assistant



FSA-www.fsa.usda.gov

2007 LOAN RATES

| COMMODITY | LOAN RATE |
|-------------|------------|
| Wheat | \$2.99/bu |
| Corn | \$1.99/bu |
| Soybeans | \$4.92/bu |
| Oats | \$1.37/bu |
| Gr. Sorghum | \$3.38/cwt |
| Sunflowers | \$8.25/cwt |
| Barley | \$1.85/bu |

RECORD CHANGES

If you have **bought, sold, or ARE renting different land**, make sure you report the changes to the FSA Office **within 30 days from the occurrence**. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in could lead to possible ineligibility for USDA benefits.

In the Spotlight

August 1 – Deadline to report corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, and any other land uses.

August 1 – Final date to submit nominations for the 2007 COC Election.

August 3 – Final date to signup for the 2007 DCP program without paying the \$100 late-file fee.

Sept 3 – Closed for Labor Day

Sept 30 – Deadline to enroll into the 2007 DCP Program to remain eligible for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments that includes a \$100 late-file fee.

October 8 – Closed for Columbus Day

November 12 – Closed for Veterans Day

FINAL REPORTING DEADLINE AUGUST 1ST

Reporting of your crop acres is required on farms that are enrolled in DCP, contain CRP acreages, have insured NAP crops, fruits and vegetables, or produce a crop for which a loan or LDP may later be requested.

AUGUST 1, 2007 is the final date to report your 2007 corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, forage sorghum, double-crop and other land uses. **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are required to annually report** these acres to earn the CRP payment. Once you are complete with planting please call for an appointment.

2007 DISASTER ASSISTANCE NEWS

The 2007 Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP).

The Crop Disaster Program is available for producers with qualifying losses for 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops – if the crop was planted before Feb 28, 2007 but may choose only one year to receive benefits. You may apply for benefits on multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producer's must have crop insurance or NAP coverage for the year of loss to be eligible. Quantity losses must be in excess of 35 percent to be eligible and the payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

We'll get additional information out as soon as it is received.



DCP SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 3, 2007

The 2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup was extended to August 3, 2007.

A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007. This extension applies only to the enrollment period, and does not extend the DCP contract period. Form CCC-509 must be filed with all signatures for a farm by September 30, 2007 to remain eligible for benefits.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 1ST

This fall, producers in LAA-1, which consists of Marquette, Union, South Sharps Creek, Harper, Castle, Jackson, McPherson and Hayes townships will hold its election.

Each County Committee (COC) member is elected for a 3 year term. They are responsible for administering several FSA programs at the county level and determining producer eligibility for many of them.

Nomination petition forms were mailed by our State Office and are now being accepted for any eligible voter to be a candidate for LAA-1. FSA is required to ensure diversity on the County Committee and solicit and accept nominations from all eligible producers in the election area, including women and minority nominees. Election guidelines and other election information are available on the internet at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/>

Nominating Petitions must be returned to this office by August 1, 2007. Voters in LAA-1 will be mailed a ballot this fall (November) to elect a County Committee member and alternates. December 3, 2007 is the last day to return completed ballots.

Conduct Your USDA Business On-Line

If you have access to the Internet and have an e-mail account you can obtain an e-Authentication Level 2 Account and conduct some of your USDA business on-line. Access www.fsa.usda.gov, then click on "Online Services" at the top of the page. Instructions are provided on how to obtain a Level 2 eAuth account. Once the account is set up, you can access eLDP, eDCP, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry, eForms, and eRepresentative. Obtain more information and a brochure at your local FSA office.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS

REMINDERS

FILE CCC-633EZ, PAGE 1 FOR LDPs

Producers are reminded to make sure they have a signed CCC-633EZ, page 1 on file prior to losing beneficial interest in any commodity. We mailed this form with DCP contracts in December 2006 and have several on file. However, it is the producer's responsibility to ensure their form is signed and on file before beneficial interest is lost.

RECONSTITUTIONS

To be effective for 2007, farm combinations and divisions must be requested no later than **August 1, 2007**. A request for a reconstitution after 2007 DCP payments have been issued will NOT be processed for 2007 unless all payments disbursed by FSA for the farm or farms have been refunded.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Seven-year fixed interest loans are available through the FSFL program for the purchase and installation of eligible commodity storage structures, handling equipment, drying equipment, and safety equipment (new or remodeled). The loan principal can be up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each "person" borrower. Real estate liens are required for amounts that exceed \$50,000. Crop insurance, for the term of the loan, is required on crops of "economic significance". Producers must pay a loan service fee and "qualify" for this program BEFORE any site preparation begins or equipment is delivered. The producer must allow an environmental assessment survey, demonstrate a need for storage, and show adequate repayment ability. Contact the FSA office for more information.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Check the condition of your farm stored grain on a regular basis.

Control trees and noxious weeds, especially on CRP.

If you are delinquent on any non-tax debt to the federal government, you are ineligible for Loans, LDP's, Guaranteed & Direct FLP Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans.

Producers planning to move CCC loan grain should contact our office for additional information prior to moving the grain.

Have you changed Banks lately? If you have not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed as payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. Your account and routing numbers are affected by such things as the type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

The FSA-Farm Loan Program Office located in Salina administers farm loan programs for McPherson County producers. **Please contact their office at (785) 825-8269 if you have any questions about the programs below or want to make an appointment.**

NEW STAFF MEMBER - We welcome Amy Theurer to the Saline County Farm Loan Program Team as Farm Loan Officer.

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 4.00% to 5.375%; direct operating loans (to finance machinery, equipment, livestock, production expenses, etc.) with a fixed interest rate of 5.125%; 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.

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.

USDA PAYMENT LIMITS

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the **producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation** which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Failure to do so can result ineligibility for payments for all years affected.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments have a limit of \$75,000 per person, and a separate \$75,000 limit for wool, mohair, honey and peanuts.

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