

Osborne County Farm Service Agency

1117 W Hwy 24; Osborne, KS 67473

Phone: 785-346-2128 Fax: 785-346-2057 January 2008

E-mail: Karen.mccune@ks.usda.gov Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

County Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month @ 12:30 P.M. November through May and @ 8:30 A.M. June through October. Members are: Alan Beisner, James Nichols, Kenneth Lee and Imogene Thornburg, Advisor.

Certification



The software is finally here so the office is ready to certify your wheat acres. The final date to certify small grains is May 31, 2008, or 15 days prior to haying or grazing.

Please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

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.

All 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 applicant's needed storage, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% down payment is also required. There is a \$45 application fee. For more information, contact the FSA office.

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.



NAP Deadline

April 15 is the final date for producers who purchased NAP insurance for 2008 to certify their alfalfa, pasture, prairie and brome hay acreages.

2007 Policyholders are required to provide acceptable and verifiable production evidence of their crops by April 15. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the disapproval of any applications for disaster benefits. It will also have adverse implications for future year approved yield calculations.



Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent County Office Committee (COC) election for the eastern part of the county. Kenneth Lee was elected to a 3 year term. Thank you to Donald Harzman for his years of service and representation of the producers in the county.

Crop Disaster Program

Payments are being processed for eligible producers who suffered quantity losses on crops planted in 2005, 2006 or 2007. **Recent legislation has extended the 2007 crop year to cover all crops planted in 2007.** The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) only applies to losses that were covered by crop insurance. Those losses must exceed 35% and producers are required to select which one of the three years for which they would like to receive benefits. It doesn't take long to sign up and it can be completed at the same time as certification if an appointment is scheduled in advance so the office staff can have your paperwork ready for you. Producers that have already been in will need to sign new loss applications for disaster affected 2007 spring crops.

Livestock Compensation Program

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides payments for grazing losses due to natural disasters between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers may choose one year to receive benefits. Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, elk, sheep, goats, swine and deer. Documentation is required to substantiate livestock numbers and could include a cash flow statement for the applicable year, vet records, or similar document. We will also need to know the location of all of your pastures.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment



The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) was previously authorized by the U.S Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, to provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered dairy production losses as a result of natural disasters occurring during the period of January 1, 2005, through February 28, 2007. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (2008 Act), signed on December 26, 2007, has extended the eligible period to December 31, 2007. This extension will require extensive changes to software and procedure.

As a result, DDAP-III signup has been temporarily suspended until automation, policy, procedure, and other administrative items have been updated to comply with the 2008 Act extending DDAP-II through December 31, 2007.

As soon as we are informed that the necessary revisions and updates have been completed we will notify producers that they can resume making applications.

Report farm changes timely

Request farm reconstitutions now

Farm Loans Available



FSA offers direct Farm Operating Loans which may be used to finance livestock enterprises, machinery purchases, etc. FSA can finance up to \$200,000 with a term of up to 7 years at the fixed or variable interest rate available at the time of loan approval. The effective fixed interest rate as of January 1, 2008 is 4.375%.

FSA offers several direct loan programs to purchase real estate with our Farm Ownership Loan Program. The first 2 programs are available to assist farmers in meeting commercial lender down payment requirements while keeping a percentage of the financing with the commercial lender.

Beginning Farmer Down payment (50-40-10 Down payment Program) – 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. Congress has historically targeted additional funding for this program.

Joint Financing Plan (50-50 Participation Loan) – 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 Loan Program – FSA will finance up to 100% of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less up to \$200,000. 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 January 1, 2008 is 5.125%.

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

NAP Coverage

March 15 is the deadline to purchase NAP coverage for sorghum forage for hay for the 2008 crop year. NAP coverage is available at the FSA office for a \$100 administrative fee. Producers will need to contact their RMA insurance company to purchase silage coverage.

CRP Authority Extended

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, signed into law on 12/26/07, provides a continuation of CRP authority after December 31, 2007, until March 15, 2008. Based on that authority, FSA is accepting offers for continuous CRP practices through March 15th, including quail buffers.

2008 Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelts



The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 was signed by the President on December 26, 2007, which authorizes Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) programs for 2008 crops of graded and ungraded wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts through March 15, 2008.

Producers may now request 2008 MAL and LDP for 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. Beneficial Interest must be maintained prior to making a request for assistance, however, if beneficial interest was lost prior to January 15, 2008; the LDP rate will be the rate in effect on the date that beneficial interest was lost. Producers need to file page 1 of form CCC-633 EZ prior to losing beneficial interest.

The 2008 crop year wool and mohair loan rates will remain unchanged from the 2007 crop loan rates.

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 to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dates to Remember	
Mar 15	Final date to purchase NAP for 2008 sorghum forage.
Mar 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for wheat, oats, and barley.
May 31	Final date to request loan or LDP for corn, milo, and soybeans.
May 31	Final date to report small grain crops.
Aug 1	Final date to request reconstitution for 2008.
Aug 1	Final date to report spring crops.