



**SOUTHWEST KANSAS -- Finney, Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Meade, Morton, Seward, Scott, Stanton and Stevens**

*July 2008*

### 2008 DCP Signup is Underway!

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was passed into law on May 22, 2008. Subsequently, the 2008 DCP signup began on **June 25, 2008 and ends Sept 30, 2008**. The 2008 program is like the 2007 DCP except that a producer on a farm may not receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less (unless that farm is wholly owned by socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmers or ranchers).

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation for 2008 DCP is \$2.5 million, just as it was in 2007. Advance payments, if requested, will be available; however, final 2008 DCP payments will be issued in October 2008.

FSA-211 power of attorney forms (and any other power of attorney documents) should be reviewed to determine whether the form is still effective for the new farm programs created under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Unless the grantor selected the option for "all current and future programs" a new FSA-211 will be required.

FSA offices are now coordinating existing appointments for feed grain certification with the demand for the 2008 DCP signup. You are encouraged to telephone your local county office for an appointment to signup into DCP.

### DISASTER SIGNUP FOR QUALITY LOSSES IN 2005-2007

The Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses (as well as quantity losses) from natural disasters and related conditions on 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. To receive CDP benefits for quality losses the farmer must have had crop insurance (or covered by NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred; must have suffered quality losses to an eligible crop; must have complied with Highly Erodible Land Conservation provisions for the 2005, 2006 and 2007 crop year; and must have been entitled to an ownership share of the crop.

You must provide the FSA with **verifiable production records** to substantiate the level of quality loss. Verifiable production records must include the quantity of production, must indicate the level of quality loss and the price. All marketing contracts for a crop must be provided for production sold under a marketing contract. Verifiable production records include, but are not limited to: commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, load summaries or an acceptable forage test.

### JULY 18 DEADLINE FOR LIVESTOCK DISASTER

Eligible livestock producers only have until July 18, 2008 to apply for benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

**LCP** provides benefits for feed losses occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Livestock must have been physically located in the disaster county on the first day of the disaster declaration to be eligible. Livestock producers must apply in the county where the livestock were physically located on the first day of the disaster.

**LIP** compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers must apply for LIP in their FSA administrative county office where their farm records are maintained.

Eligible losses must have occurred in counties with Presidential or Secretarial disaster declarations between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007. For LIP and LCP, producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 qualifying years will only earn benefits in one of those years.

For additional information, contact your local FSA county office **before the July 18, 2008 deadline**. Interested producer can also access LCP, LIP and other program fact sheets on FSA's Web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Fact Sheets.

### Nominations for FSA County Committee

It's time to prepare for the 2008 FSA county committee elections. The nomination period for eligible voters began June 15 and continues through August 1, 2008. You may nominate yourself or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. The candidate must reside in the county. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at your FSA office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections. Nomination forms must be filed at your USDA Service Center (or postmarked) by COB Aug 1, 2008.

### REPORT FAILED ACRES BEFORE DISPOSITION

Hail and other severe weather continue to affect counties in Southwest Kansas. Don't forget to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, with FSA prior to destroying failed acres. By notifying the FSA office of these failed acres, it will give FSA the ability to certify the affected acres as failed, which in turn will retain those acres for your farm's crop history.

### FARM RECORD CHANGES

Once again we remind you to notify your FSA office if there are any changes for the 2008 crop year have been made to any of the farms in which you have an interest. Report to FSA immediately: if any cropland in your operation has come under new ownership; or if your farm lease was a crop-share but now is cash leased, or vice versa; if any land owners or farm operators are now deceased; or if you have transferred ownership of your cropland or farming operation into a trust, a corporation, partnership, or estate. It is important to keep the farm records current so that you do not jeopardize program eligibility for the farm operator or the land owner.



### CRP Haying and Grazing Authorized

Certain acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is available for haying and grazing after the primary nesting season which ends July 15. This authorization provides relief for many Kansas livestock producers and was initiated because of high price and demand of commodities has significantly impacted the Kansas livestock industry.

CRP acreage in all Kansas counties that is fully established and devoted to the following CRP practices will be eligible:

- CP1, Established Permanent Grasses and Legumes
- CP2, Established Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP10, Vegetative Cover
- CP18B, Established Perm. Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
- CP18C, Established Perm. Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover

You must leave at least 50 percent of eligible CRP acreage unhayed for wildlife. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will develop a conservation plan for implementing the haying or grazing option for critical feed use.

Haying and grazing cannot begin until July 16, 2008 and must end by November 10, 2008. Haying and grazing is not allowed on the same acreage. Hay and livestock must be removed from the field by November 10, 2008. CRP participants may sell the hay, or use their CRP acreage for their own use or lease to any other individual.

**4-H and Youth Loans Available**

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, 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.



**Who May Borrow?**

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- be at least 10 years old but less than 21 years of age;
- live in a town of less than 50,000 people;
- be unable to obtain a loan from other sources.

Additional information regarding FSA loan programs can be found on the following Internet sites: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/) or [www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA)

To apply you should provide a completed FSA Application on Form FSA 2301, which is available from your local FSA County Office or by obtaining online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainServlet> or contact: your local Farm Service Agency for assistance.

**REPORT 2008 PLANTED ACRES**

Accurate certification of the use of cropland acres on your farm for the current crop year is required for FSA farm programs. August 15 is the deadline to report all cropland acres small grain acres to the Farm Service Agency.

If you have completed your spring planting please visit your FSA Office to get those feed grain, oilseed and CRP acres reported. The deadline for all cropland uses, other than small grains, is August 15.

**Dates to Remember...**

<b>July 4</b>	USDA Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day
<b>July 16</b>	First day available for haying or grazing under CRP critical feed use
<b>July 18</b>	Deadline to enroll under 2005-2007 LIP & LCP
<b>Aug 1</b>	Deadline to request a 2008-year farm reconstitution
<b>Aug 1</b>	Final date to submit Nominations for 2008 FSA County Committee Election in eligible LAA's
<b>Aug 15</b>	Deadline to certify spring seeded crops, CRP, and NAP (NAP is earlier of Aug 15 or 15 days prior to grazing or harvest)
<b>Sept 30</b>	Deadline for Enrollment into the 2008 DCP
<b>Nov 10</b>	Deadline to remove livestock &/or hay from CRP approved under the Critical Feed Use (hay/graze) opportunity.
<b>Ongoing:</b>	➤ Continuous CRP signup
	➤ CDP 2005-2007 for Quantity and Quality Losses
	➤ Direct & Guar. Operating or Farm Owner Loans
	➤ Rural Youth Loans
	➤ Farm Storage Facility Loans



**CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

**2008 Farm Reconstitution Requests**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) states that a producer on a farm may not receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments if the sum of the base acres of the farm is 10.0 acres or less, except if the farm is owned by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer or rancher. Another exception is if one farm undergoes a change in land ownership. To qualify for this exception the owners of each of the farms under the new combination must be identical and have identical shares in both farms.

Reconstitution requests will not be approved that affect farms that have a sum of base acres of 10.0 or less, unless the request for the reconstitution was filed prior to the passing of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 which became law on May 22, 2008.

Reconstitution requests for farms participating in the 2008 DCP must be on file at the county office by COB on August 1, 2008. As a reminder the deadline to enroll in the 2008 DCP is September 30, 2008.



**CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST SHARE FUNDS**

Conservation Districts who still have money available for cost share are now taking applications for various conservation practices. Cost share rates and payment limitations vary by county. Contact your local Conservation District manager at the USDA Service Center for more information.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant such as marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

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