

ALLEN COUNTY FSA AG REPORT



Allen County FSA

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Hours

8:00 A.M.-
4:30 P.M.
Monday -
Friday

Office Staff

Lindsey Hammond
Jandy Wiltse
Marthena Spainhoward
Janet Mattox
Doug Peine, CED

County Committee

Gary Coltrane, Chairperson
Marvin Sander, Vice Chairperson
Marjorie Mentzer, Member

The committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR COC ELECTION

Don't forget about the 2007 County Committee (COC) election. On June 15th we will begin taking nominations for the election that will be held in November for Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2. This area covers includes the Humboldt, Salem, Logan, and Cottage Grove townships. Gary Coltrane currently holds this position. The deadline to return nomination forms to our office is **August 1, 2007**.

The county committee gives local producers a say in how federal farm programs are implemented in the county. The committee oversees the work of the county executive director, acts in an advisory capacity to the farm loan manager and is accountable to the state committee.

Eligible voters must be of legal voting age and have an interest in farmland as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or be eligible to participate in agency programs. The spouse of eligible voter may also vote and serve on the committee, if nominated and elected.

Producers who are eligible to vote in the county committee election may nominate candidates. Nominees must also be eligible voters and must agree to serve on the committee, if elected.

Nomination forms are available in our office and must be returned by the 1st of August. Only one nominee may be named on each form. Eligible voters may circulate and sign nomination forms for as many candidates as they choose.

If the county committee determines socially disadvantaged groups, female, or minority farmers are not adequately represented, it will add nominees who can fairly represent the interests of these groups.

Once again we highly encourage everyone in LAA # 2 to not only participate in the election process, but also consider being included on this year's ballot. All nominations must be in our office by close of business **August 1, 2007**.

2007 CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Please remember that acreage reporting is required in order for you to be eligible for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program, CRP, as well as for loans and LDP's. The deadline for reporting small grains was **May 31, 2007**. The final date to report feed grains, cotton, soybeans, grass, and CRP is **August 1, 2007**. Failure to timely report cropland results in the producer paying for a field visit at a minimum fee of \$46 per farm. Our Office will be sending appointment cards to farm operators identifying a time and date for you to report. If you will be unable to attend during the specified time, please contact our office to reschedule a time prior to **August 1st**. Please remember that planting dates will need to be loaded into the computer, so bring the necessary information in order to provide these dates during your appointment.

DCP PROGRAM

The sign up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program for enrollment in DCP has been extended from June 1st to **August 3, 2007**. The final date for late-filed enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period is September 30, 2007. Producers wanting to enroll in the program after August 3, 2007 will be required to pay a \$100 late fee per farm.

DCP participants are reminded that any base acres enrolled for payment must have proper erosion and weed control practices implemented. This is not as big of an issue if the land has a growing crop as these activities are part of your normal farming measures. Keep in mind if you were not able to get all of your land planted due to the wet weather, weed and erosion control measures must be taken in order for you to be eligible for your DCP payments. Random spot checks are conducted annually to ensure proper maintenance of DCP acres

ECP IS BEING REQUESTED FOR ALLEN COUNTY

The USDA - Allen County Farm Service Agency's Committee has submitted a request for Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding as a result of the flooding conditions in late June. The program is designed to provide cost share assistance for farm and ranchers who experienced **severe** damage to agriculture land resulting from the flood. There are several eligibility requirements involved with the implementation of the program. Some of the major eligibility requirements are:

- The damage must have occurred **OUTSIDE** the 100-year flood plain.
- Producers must have sustained a minimum of \$1,000.00 of eligible damage.
- An onsite inspection must be completed **BEFORE** any repair activities have started for the requested practice.
- Cost share assistance is eligible for losses that are beyond normal maintenance of the practice.
- Fence restoration provides assistance if located outside the 100-year flood plain and is intended to get the fence back to pre-flood conditions. Cost share is factored based on the age of the fence prior to the event.

The FSA Committee has requested the following practices:

- EC1** – Removing debris from farmland
- EC2** – Grading, shaping, releveling, or similar measures
- EC3** – Restoring permanent fences
- EC4** – Restoring Conservation Structures and other installations.

As previously mentioned, the program has been requested but no approval or funding has been received. The Allen County FSA Office can accept applications for assistance even though the program has not been approved or funded. As noted above a request must be filed and an onsite inspection must be completed **BEFORE** repair activities begin. Please contact the Allen County FSA Office **IMMEDIATELY** to get additional information about ECP or to submit a request for assistance.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (Not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, 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.

CRP REMINDERS

The Deadline for reporting your Conservation Reserve Program acreage is **August 1st, 2007**. Our office is sending appointment cards to all farm operators in order for them to schedule enough time to come in a report their CRP. If the time and date on the cards will not work for you, please contact the office to reschedule. Please remember if you do not receive an appointment card it is your responsibility to report all CRP by August 1st, 2007.

Acres are still available to be enrolled in CP-33 field borders to enhance upland birds such as the bobwhite quail. Kansas will continue signup for this practice as long as acres remain or until December 31, 2007, whichever comes first. If you are interested in this practice, **NOW** is the time to contact NRCS to set up a time to determine the eligible acres. Please remember no growing crops can be present on the acreage once the contract becomes effective. The effective dates of CRP contracts can be deferred up to six months from the approval date.

Please remember to report all changes that may affect the way the annual CRP payment will be issued this fall. Changes to your CRP contract may result from the sale of land, deaths, change of operators, etc. Please contact our office for more information or questions pertaining to the CRP reminders noted above.

CRP participants are reminded that noxious weeds **MUST** be controlled on contract acres. Trees on CRP can result in a compliance violation if they exceed the height of the grass and exceed a 3% canopy of the area. Please remember it is your responsibility to periodically inspect your CRP acres to ensure you stay in compliance with the provisions of your contract. Random spot checks are conducted annually to ensure proper maintenance of CRP acres.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Disaster Assistance will be the topic at meetings scheduled for farmers and ranchers affected by the June 26 severe storms and subsequent flooding in southeast Kansas.

Representatives from Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, Extension Service, Kansas Rural Family Helpline, FEMA, Congressional Representatives, and others will meet with farmers and ranchers to discuss assistance available for financial, production, and physical losses received from the June 26 storms and subsequent flooding.

Affected counties are Elk, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and the contiguous counties of Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cowley, Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Greenwood, Johnson, Labette, Linn, and Woodson.

Producers are encouraged to attend one of these meetings:

- KSU SEK Research Center, July 24, 7:00 p.m.,
Parsons, KS
- Independence Civic Center, August 1, 7:00 p.m.,
Independence, KS.
- Buxton Christian Church, August 2, 7:00 p.m.,
located 6 miles South of Fredonia on Highway 96
and 5.5 miles West on the Buxton Road.

We have scheduled an informational meeting on **JULY 30, 2007**. The focus of the meeting will be to provide information concerning the importance of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee, its role, and information concerning the election process that is conducted annually. Although this is the main topic, we will discuss other program topics such as ECP and others that are requested by the participants. The meeting will be held in the Assembly Room in the basement of the Allen County Courthouse. It will begin at **9:30 AM** and will conclude after the presentation is complete and all questions are answered. Mark your calendar and plan to be in town on **JULY 30th**.

FOREIGN LANDOWNERS MUST REPORT HOLDING

Allen County Farm Service Agency would like to remind foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency. Foreigner investors buying or selling land must report such transaction within 90 days of the date of the sale. Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

RADIO SHOW

Keep yourself informed on all the latest FSA news by listening to your radio! Be sure and tune into 101.5 FM KIKS or 1370 AM KALN for our monthly FSA radio shows. It is a quick and easy way for you to keep track of your FSA business. Our show airs at 8:55 AM so please tune in, and keep yourself informed.

CROP DISASTER QUESTIONS

Considering the recent weather conditions, several people may be wondering about possible crop disaster program. Regulations are being written for a program that covers quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007. The final regulations have not been drafted and a sign-up period has not been announced. It doesn't appear the June flooding incident will be included under this bill. Please watch for additional information to be published.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Need more grain storage? Then consider FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan program. Under the program, eligible producers can borrow up to 85 percent of their net costs (up to \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note) for storage and handling equipment.

Loans may be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years, and current loan rate for July is 5.0 percent. Please contact our office for more information about facility loans.