

ALLEN COUNTY FSA AG REPORT



Allen County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

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

The Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff: Doug Peine, CED

Marthena Spainhoward, PT
Jandy Wiltse, PT
Lindsey Hammond, PT
Janet Mattox, TPT
Jennifer Sensley, COT

October 2007

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Allen County has been approved for the Emergency Conservation Program. Sign-up began September 24, 2007 and will run through October 23, 2007. ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage.

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- *impair or endanger the land;
- *materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- *represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- *be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Some of the elements included in ECP are repairing fencing, waterways and terraces as well as debris removal. To be eligible for cost-share assistance the estimated costs must be over \$1,000. Producers interested in this program should contact the office to set up an appointment prior to **October 23rd**. On-site inspections should be completed before any work begins however you may still be eligible after work has begun. If work has already been started or completed keep all of your receipts.

New Face In The Office

The Allen County Office has a new face. Jennifer Sensley joined the staff as a County Operations Trainee (COT) in late August. Jennifer comes from Elkhart, Kansas which is in Morton County. She has worked for the Farm Service Agency since April of 1999. She is completing the first portion of her training in our office to become a County Executive Director. She will be with us through the middle of November.

Foreign Investors 90-Day Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

FSA County Committee Elections

Ballots for the County Committee election will be mailed around the first of November to all eligible voters in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2 (Humboldt, Salem, Logan, and Cottage Grove townships). Your ballot will need to be voted, signed and returned to the Allen County FSA Office by **December 3, 2007**.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

The sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007.

Allen county producers are eligible due to a drought designation in 2006. The following are among the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. Eligible livestock must be owned **and** physically located on a farm in the administrative county as of January 1, 2006 to allow the livestock **and** any grazing/feed losses to be eligible for payment. Producers will need to be able to identify pastures on a map, provide a percent grazing loss for each, and if needed provide evidence of ownership, feed records and other supporting documents.

The payment rates will be \$10.66 for adult cows and bulls, \$8.00 for non-adult cattle weighing 500 pounds or more, \$27.72 for dairy cows and bulls and \$8.00 for non-adult dairy cattle weighing 500 pounds or more. Other rates are available by contacting the Allen County FSA Office. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits.

Producers are encouraged to contact the office to set up an appointment. Producers will also need to be prepared to spend some time completing the application process.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered 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 Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. 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.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. The sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program will begin on **October 15, 2007**. All producers with certain revenue based crop insurance policies, will need to provide proof of insurance and acceptable production records on a per unit basis. Producers are encouraged to contact the office for an appointment time and to inquire what will be needed during their CDP visit.

Office Consolidation

The last day for producers to conduct regular business with the Woodson County FSA Office will be October 26, 2007. The Woodson County Office will soon begin transferring affected farms to their new administrative counties. Producers who have requested their farming operations be transferred to Allen County will then be able to conduct regular business at our office. Producers who wish to file an application for any of the disaster programs, Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program or Crop Disaster Program, will be accommodated in our office however producers should call the office to set an appointment time so that all necessary forms can be requested from the consolidating office.

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.

Reasonable Accommodations

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.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007. A list of counties eligible for LIP may be found at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. Livestock producers incurring livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years may only select one year in which to receive assistance.

To be eligible for LIP, an owner's livestock must meet the following conditions. The livestock must:

- **have died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event(s):
 - **after Jan. 1, 2005, and before Feb. 28, 2007;
 - **no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable disaster period(s) but before Feb. 28, 2007; and
 - **in the calendar year for which benefits are requested.
- **have been maintained for a commercial farming operation on the day they died; and
- **not have been produced for reasons other than commercial farming. This includes wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Contact the office for questions or to set up an appointment.

Ongoing	Sign-up for Livestock Compensation Program- No ending date set.
Ongoing	Sign-up for Livestock Indemnity Program – No ending date set.
October 15, 2007	Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program Begins
October 23, 2007	Sign-up ends for the Emergency Conservation Program
October 26, 2007	Last day for regular business in Woodson County

DATES TO REMEMBER!

APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED

In order for producers to minimize their trips to the office appointments are encouraged, not required. With all the numerous sign-ups going on at this time and the documentation that needs to be provided for each program producers will reduce the amount of trips to the office by making appointments and will allow us to better prepare for your visit.



Non-Discrimination Statement
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