

The deadline for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Farm Service Agency's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for oats, aquaculture, canola, Christmas trees, nursery crops, speltz, and turf grass sod is Sept. 1.

Crop eligible for program benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Included as eligible crops are floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed).

Farmers and ranchers, who wish to participate in the program, must visit their local Farm Service Agency office to complete an application for coverage and pay the service fee by the sales closing date for the specific crop.

This coverage entitles producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater.

Farmers and ranchers are limited to \$100,000 in benefits per person per crop year; they must not exceed the \$2 million gross revenue provisions; and they must comply with conservation compliance provisions in order to be determined eligible.

Agency needs farm help

The Norton County Farm Service Agency is looking for people to serve on its farmer-elected committee.

The agency wants people who want to get involved and help others in the business of agriculture, and needs people who know farming, are farming new or different crops and/or those who can bring a different perspective to the Department of Agriculture's work in the area.

This year's election will be held on Dec. 6. Nominations will be accepted through Sept. 3.

The local administrative area from which candidates will be taken for the elections is the east one-third of Norton County.

If you know someone who might be interested in working on the farmer elected Farm Service Agency county committee or if you would like to help, stop by the office at 111 N. Norton or call (785) 877-5156.



Not much but metal and char was left of Dennis Kasson's Mr. Kasson remains in critical condition at Via Christi Medical Center in Wichita. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Investigators look over crashed plane

A Wilsonville man remains in critical condition after the spray plane he was piloting went down Thursday night.

What happened to make the plane crash is still under investigation, said James Badhorse with the Federal Aviation Administration. "We just don't know at this point," he said Friday. "We need to talk to any witnesses and the pilot. We need to get all of the facts before we can comment about what happened."

After the plane hit ground, it hit a power pole on Dave Donovan's land, two miles north of U.S. 36 near the intersection of Road W-2 and Road J.

The aircraft caught fire, burning Mr. Kasson badly. He was taken to the Norton County Hospital by Leroy Lang, and then was flown to Via Christi Hospital in Wichita by Eagle Med, an air ambulance out of Goodland.

Mr. Lang said he couldn't say anything about what happened.

Sheriff Troy Thomson said when he arrived at the scene, the plane was burning; fire crews were trying to put out the flames.

"At that time, we didn't know where the pilot was," he said.

Sheriff Thomson said they were searching for Mr. Kasson when they got a call saying he was already at the hospital.

"I was really impressed with the emergency technicians and fire and rescue's efforts out there," said acting Ambulance Director Andy

Nielsen. "They did a good job."

Mr. Nielsen said two ambulances were sent out, because it wasn't known how many were injured or what type of plane crashed.

Responding to the scene were Norton Fire and Rescue, the Norton County Emergency Medical Service, and the Norton County Sheriff's Department.

On Monday Mr. Kasson was still in critical condition.

County won't let citizens maintain roads

By VERONICA MONIER
Even though some residents would like to maintain the roads near their homes, it is the county's job to take care of them, Norton County commissioners were told on Monday.

Last week the commissioners received a request from Sam Schnuerle, rural Almena, to let him take care of the county road near his home and fields.

At Monday's meeting the commissioners received an update from Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan on the problem.

Mr. Brannan said he tried to contact Mr. Schnuerle last Tuesday morning and then again later that afternoon, but wasn't able to reach him. Mr. Schnuerle had complained about the condition of the road going to his property and that his driveways into his fields had been torn out.

Mr. Brannan said he went to look at the road Mr. Schnuerle complained about and he thought it looked fine.

"It basically looked like our guys are just doing regular maintenance and cleaning up the road," he said.

He said he was able to contact Mr. Schnuerle on Wednesday and said he was angry because the crew bladed his road, which is a standard way of maintaining roads.

Mr. Brannan said it was the county crew's job to maintain the county roads. He said the road in question is a major north-south county road and they couldn't show favoritism by giving anybody two or three blades so they could maintain the roads themselves.

As for the driveway problem, Mr. Brannan said Mr. Schnuerle didn't mention it when he spoke with him. He said the driveways were gone, but they put them back in, taking care of the problem.

"We're not perfect," he said. "Sometimes we're going to miss a farmer's driveway. But if they let us know about the problem, we'll

be happy to come back and fix it. We try to work with the people who call us with a problem."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that in the past three years, 90 miles of secondary roads have been rebuilt, 120 miles of asphalt millings have been laid, and 21 bridges have been built by the county.

- Heard from Mr. Brannan that the bridge crews have been starting work at 6:30 a.m. in an attempt to beat the heat. Also, because of the hot weather, some of the blade operators have had to stop and let their equipment cool off. He said it wasn't a major problem, but was something they were keeping their eye on.

- Talked about some of the areas in the county that need to have tree-work done with Mr. Brannan.

- Spoke with Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald about a possible landfill covering. He said the Phillipsburg landfill has started to use a tarp system that looks, basi-

cally, like Saran wrap. Mr. Archibald said the tarp costs about \$60 a day. He went to Phillipsburg Monday afternoon to check out their system.

- Discussed the possibility of switching the county's insurance plan for its employees to one that includes health savings accounts. Health savings accounts would allow employees to put money into a non-taxable account to be used for health care costs in addition to regularly health coverage.

Switching to a health savings account plan would save the county money despite the fact that the county would give the employees money every month for their account.

The commissioners said they needed to have a meeting with their employees before any action could be taken to make sure they fully understood the options.

- Held a 10-minute closed session with County Attorney Doug Sebelius to discuss acquisition of property.

- Paid a \$2,094.05 bill for the city/county-wide clean-up. The bill can be written off.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Escapees captured

Two prisoners, who escaped from the Norton Correctional Facility East Unit in Stockton, were caught Sunday night.

Rooks County law enforcement officials apprehended Justin Michael Wilhite and Lorenzo P. Lee around 10:30 p.m. Sunday as they were walking through a field near the facility.

The inmates escaped around 8:15 p.m. that day. Facility staff noticed seeing two people entering a creek area near the prison on foot and so an emergency count was done to confirm there had been an escape.

The escapees are in the custody of Rooks County law enforcement. An investigation into the escape is continuing and charges for aggravated escape from custody are pending in the county.

Conference set at college

A seminar on "Energizing Entrepreneurship in Rural Communities" will be held from Aug. 9-13 at McCook Community College.

The Nelson Institute and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship will co-sponsor the seminar, for economic developers, educators and community leaders. Participants will learn about starting a business, and receive technical assistance in developing a plan to enhance entrepreneur business development in their communities.

Instructor will be Don Macke, co-director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. He has nearly 25 years of experience in community and economic development.

Class size is limited. To register or for information visit the website www.thenelsoninstitute.org, or call Vicky Leibbrandt at (308) 345-8124 or (800) 658-4348, extension 8124.

Library plans dance night

If you are a student in 7th through 12th grade, put on your dancin' shoes and bop on over to the Norton Public Library Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. It is Dance Night for the final Fun Night of the Norton Library's summer schedule.

Come and learn some new dance moves and eat pizza provided by the library.

Aging group to get together

The board and the advisory council of the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday at the Q-Inn Restaurant in Quinter.

For details, call the agency at (800) 432-7422 or (785) 628-8204.

Colby rodeo looking for queen, princess candidates

The Thomas County Rodeo in Colby is taking entries for the Queen and Princess contest to be held on Friday, July 30.

Queen candidates must be 17-24; princesses, 14-16; and junior princesses, 10-13, by July 1 and live in

northwest Kansas to be eligible. Application deadline is Friday, July 23.

Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, an interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen, with belt

buckles for the queen and princesses. Prizes will be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and speech and modeling.

The 2004 Thomas County Rodeo queen and princess will be crowned on Tuesday, Aug. 3, at the Profes-

sional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeo.

For details or entry forms, contact Marie Skolout at (785) 586-2228, or e-mail june@st-tel.net.

RE-ELECT JOHN MILLER
NORTON COUNTY
THIRD DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER

POLITICAL ADV. FOR JOHN MILLER,
KAREN REEDY, TREASURER

Dan Rasure
State Senate
danrasure.com
sign up for Dan's weekly
newsletter by emailing him at
dan@danrasure.com

Paid for and authorized by Dan Rasure for Senate Ron Vignery, Chairman; Cliff Leach, Treasurer

Ivan Kingham
Republican Candidate
for Norton County
Commissioner
District Two

- Lifelong Norton Resident
- Farm Bureau Board for eight years — President two terms
- Norton County Co-op Board since 1990 — Chairman six years
- Airport Board 20 years — Current President

I want to be a commissioner for all people of the county. My goal is to bring cooperation between county and city government.

Your support on August 3 will be greatly appreciated.

Pd. Adv. by Ivan Kingham for District 2, Norton Co. Comm., Craig Renner, Treas.

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