

# Investors must report holdings

Angie Berens, county executive director of the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency, is reminding 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 has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency.

According to Mrs. Berens, foreign investors buying or selling land must report such transactions 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.

She said the act requires reports to be filed by:

- individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Island;

- individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

- any organization created under the laws of a foreign government or which has located its principal place of business outside the United States.

- any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations, or government; and

- any foreign governments.

Farm Service Agency form FSA-153 is used to report land holdings and transactions. The completed form must be returned to the county office where the land is located.

# Disaster program deadline is Dec. 1

Interested producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency prior to the Dec. 1, application closing date to obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage and discuss eligibility for 2009 supplemental disaster programs.

Bill R. Fuller, state executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Kansas Farm Service Agency reminds producers of the application closing date for certain crops under the assistance program. Crops eligible for these benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Producers must obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage on all 2009 non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on all 2009 insurable crops to remain eligible for the 2009 supplemental disaster assistance programs recently announced in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Those disaster programs include Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Fresh Fish Program (ELAP). Livestock Indemnity Program is exempt from assistance program or crop insurance coverage.

Dec. 1, is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain 2009 NAP coverage for all grasses including Alfalfa, Barley, Canola, Christmas Trees, Clover, Honey, Lespedeza, Mixed Forage, Nursery Crops, Oats, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Vetch and Wheat.

There is an administrative service fee per crop per administrative county not to exceed a set limit per producer per administrative county and a maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage entitles eligible 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 of an eligible crop.

Producers are encouraged to purchase this coverage on all non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops to remain eligible for 2009 supplemental disaster programs. For some 2009 disaster programs, grazing land must have the assistance coverage or crop insurance to be eligible.

# Applications being taken for program

By Joan L. Gienger, District Conservationist

Applications are currently being taken for 2009 federal conservation programs. Although applications are taken on a continuous basis, there are cut off dates announced periodically. For 2009 consideration, Dec. 15 is the deadline for the Wetland Reserve Program; Jan. 9 is the deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

Farmers or ranchers, who wish to receive financial help to address natural resource concerns, may request an application at the United States Department of Agriculture Service Center, located on West Highway 36 in Saint Francis.

Farm owners or operators who are interested in a conservation program are encouraged to contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff as soon as possible. This allows time to visit about their concerns, schedule a field visit, and do the preliminary planning, as well as give the applicant time to consider his or her options.

Types of assistance that are available depend on the program, but can include payments to help a farmer adopt a new management

practice or defray the cost of installing a structural or vegetative practice. Management practices that have proven popular with local farmers and ranchers include rotational grazing, no-till, irrigation water scheduling or shutting down a well.

Structural or vegetative practices for which financial help has been received include restoring wetlands (playas or "lagoons"), wildlife plantings, converting from flood irrigation to sprinkler or subsurface drip, and water development for livestock. Terrace construction, although it has not been used locally in the federal programs for many years, is also available for some situations.

Federal programs reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill include Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

The Conservation Reserve Program is administered by the Farm Service Agency and includes a continuous sign-up for environmentally sensitive land. Locally, wetland restoration, field borders, shelter-belts, grassed waterways, and vegetating center pivot corners have all been popular. Many

of these practices include bonus payments for signing up, practice installation, and/or annual rental payments. The Natural Resources Conservation Service assists farmers with planning and installation.

The other programs listed are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition to federal assistance, wetland restoration, wildlife habitat development, or irrigation well retirement (in designated areas) may be eligible for state programs that provide added incentives.

Beginning farmers or ranchers, minorities, and women, as well as producers with limited resources, often receive additional financial help.

For additional information or to make application for program assistance, contact the USDA Service Center on West Highway 36 in Saint Francis, phone number 785-332-2183. Preliminary information is also available on the web at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/).

## Quotes

Often we allow ourselves to be upset by small things we should despise and forget. We lose many irreplaceable hours brooding over grievances that, in a year's time, will be forgotten by us and by everybody. No, let us devote our life to worthwhile actions and feelings, to great thoughts, real affections and enduring undertakings.

~ Andre Maurois

If I could reach up and hold a star for everytime you've made me smile, the entire evening sky would be in the palm of my hand.

~ unknown

Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to

go through. Where people fail is they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death.

~ Anais Nin

To measure you by your smallest deed is to reckon the ocean by the frailty of its foam. To judge you by your failures is to cast blame upon the seasons for their inconsistencies.

~ Kahlil Gibran

Better indeed is knowledge than mechanical practice. Better than knowledge is meditation. But better still is surrender of attachment to results, because there follows immediate peace.

~ Bhagavad Gita

## Moments With Mila

### Carbon Monoxide: Invisible Winter Hazard

As colder weather will soon be approaching, it is a good idea for parents and caregivers that have fuel-burning appliances such as supplemental space heaters and generators to have carbon monoxide detectors. Fuel burning appliances can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

It is essential to have working smoke alarms in every sleeping area. It is also essential to have working carbon monoxide detectors available as well. Carbon monoxide is odorless and invisible. It can kill, and can also make a child seriously ill in small doses that might not noticeably affect an adult.

Each year, in the United States, Nearly 4,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for carbon monoxide exposure - not counting fire-related cases - and seven die.

Some tips to precaution parents against carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the first place - make sure heating appliances are in

good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas.

- Have fireplace flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season.

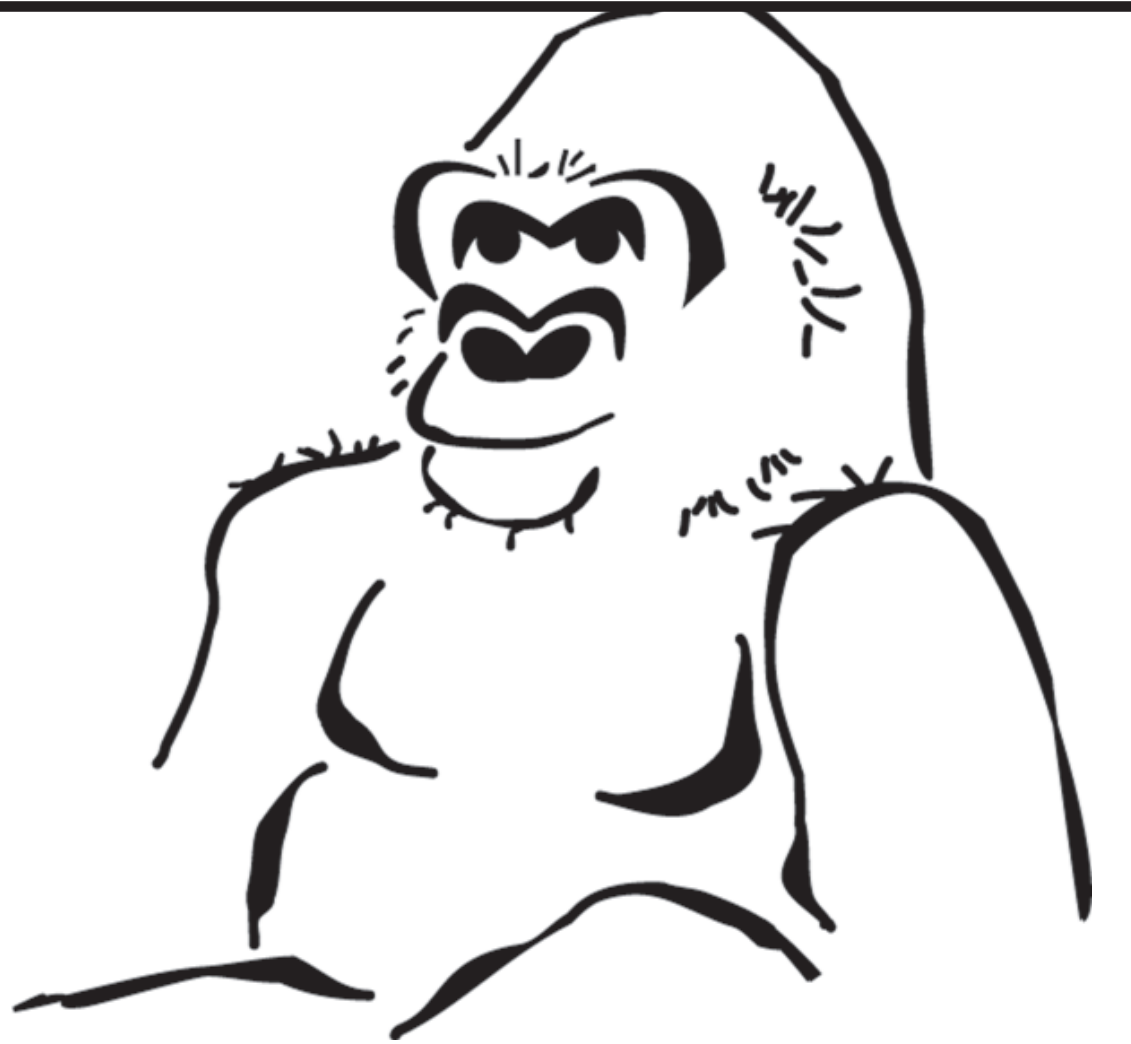
- Don't run a car engine in the garage, even to warm it up; move the car outside first or have the garage door open.

- Install a carbon monoxide detector approximately 15 feet from every fuel-burning appliance and outside every sleeping area. Check the batteries monthly (when you check your smoke alarm batteries).

If someone who has been in a poorly ventilated room with a fuel-burning appliance begins to feel nauseous, drowsy or confused, or complains of a headache, move the victim to fresh air and call 911. If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a carbon monoxide alarm goes off, get everyone outside.

Be prepared early, get those carbon monoxide detectors bought and put them to good use.

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(785) 877-3361

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756  
(785) 332-3162

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