

# Environmental program addresses resource concerns

"Kansas farmers and ranchers have until July 19 to apply for more than \$3.9 million dollars, and maybe more, that will soon be available to protect cropland and grazing land with soil and water saving practices," said Harold Klaege, state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"With the passage of the new farm bill there is the possibility for additional funding and other changes in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), one of the main soil and water conservation programs offered by department," said conservationist Klaege.

In previous years, enrollment in Environmental Quality Incentives Program required a 5 to 10 year contract between the agriculture department and the producer. Now 2 to 10 year contracts are allowable. Also, participants will be eligible for up to \$450,000 of Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost-share payments between now through 2007. Previous contracts had a \$50,000 limit.

## Incentives program offers producers other opportunities

In addition to the regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Kansas farmers and ranchers may be interested in applying for program funds to address drought-impacted natural resource concerns or the ground and surface water savings efforts in the High Plains Aquifer.

## Drought impacted natural resource concerns - 50 western Kansas counties

"To help farmers deal with drought impacted natural resource concerns in western Kansas, \$1 million has been reserved from the 2002 fiscal year Environmental Incentives Program

(EQIP) allocation," said conservationist Klaege. "Farmers and ranchers will receive priority in addressing grazing lands health and wind erosion concerns caused by drought in 50 western Kansas counties."

These funds can be used to help install conservation practices or systems, such as deferred grazing, a planned grazing system, livestock water development, cover crop, chemical fallow, and no-tillage system.

Key Points for the Drought Impacted Natural Resource Concerns and a map and listing of the 50 counties can be found at (<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda>) ([www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)), click on What's New.

## Ground and surface water savings effort

A special section of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in the 2002 Farm Bill addresses a ground and surface water conservation effort for the eight states in the High Plains Aquifer, which includes Kansas. Natural Resource and Conservation Service in Kansas is expecting to receive additional dollars to help landowners reduce the amount of water used in their ag operations.

"This could involve actions from making improvements to a sprinkler irrigation system, converting from furrow irrigation to more efficient sprinkler systems, installing meters on furrow systems, or even converting from irrigation to dry land crops," said conservationist Klaege.

A Fact Sheet and Key Points for the Ground and Surface Water Special Section - High Plains Aquifer can be found at (<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda>) ([www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)), click on What's New.

## Apply now for environmental quality incentives program

"We have not yet received the final program guidelines or dollar amounts. We do know they are coming and we want to give Kansas landowners time to apply for these funds," added conservationist Klaege.

Farmers and ranchers will have until July 19, to make an application for these funds at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

"After July 19, we will evaluate and rank the applications. If the application is approved, an actual contract will not be signed until late summer. We will continue to take applications throughout the summer. Applications received after July 19 will be ranked at a later date," he said.

"Our offices have been busy taking applications. We will be contacting all those people to see if they want to change their application with the new program options. We also need to allow time if there are other folks now interested in the program who want to apply," conservationist Klaege said.

Since 1997, over 3,120 Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts have been written in Kansas totaling more than \$20 million dollars committed to conservation work. These dollars do not include the money invested by the individual landowner.

Farmers and ranchers interested in applying for these conservation dollars should contact their local county conservation district or Natural Resources Conservation Service office in the Department of Agriculture Service Center.

For information about the 2002 Farm Bill conservation programs go to (<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda>) ([www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)), click on the Farm Bill logo.

# Special provisions provided for 2001 crop year payments

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides special provisions for 2001-crop year Loan Deficiency Payments. The special provisions extend 2001-crop year Loan Deficiency Payments eligibility to producers who produced eligible contract commodities on non-Production Flexibility Contract farms. The special provision also applies to producers who lost beneficial interest in an eligible contract commodity, produced on a non-Production Flexibility Contract farm; or lost beneficial interest in an eligible commodity before applying for an Loan Deficiency Payment.

Because the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provided authority to accept Loan Deficiency Payment requests on commodities produced on non-Production Flexibility Contract farms to ensure program eq-

uity among all producers of eligible contract commodities an oilseeds. The final availability date for the 2001-crop has been extended to a yet-to-be-determined date.

Producers who produced and harvested an eligible contract commodity on a Production Flexibility Contract or non-Production Flexibility Contract farm that lost beneficial interest in the commodity, are eligible for a 2001 crop year Loan Deficiency Payment. These producers must submit a Loan Deficiency Payment request on or before 30 calendar days after the publication of the regulations in the Federal Register. The request must be filed in the Farm Service Agency County Office where the farm records are kept for the farm on which the commodity was produced.

The Loan Deficiency Payment rate

will be determined as follows for eligible producers:

- If the producer has lost beneficial interest, the Loan Deficiency Payment rate used will be the rate in effect on the date beneficial interest was lost.

- If the producer fed the commodity, the Loan Deficiency Payment rate used will be the rate in effect on the date or dates the commodity was fed.

- If the producer used Loan Deficiency Payment quantities for seed, the Loan Deficiency Payment rate used will be the rate in effect on the date the commodity was used for seed.

- If the producer who produced and harvested commodities on a non-Production Flexibility Contract or Production Flexibility Contract farm still retains beneficial interest, the Loan Deficiency Payment rate will be based on the date of request.

# Hospice care workers wrapping terminally ill patients in cloak

Some of our most intense living comes when a person knows he/she is terminally ill. The things that are really important come clearly into focus and acted upon. Such as love expressed, reconciliation's occur, and life's joy remembered. It is hope for this kind of intense living that Hospice Services provides for terminally ill patients and their families through palliative treatment.

The word "palliate" comes from the Latin word "palliare" which means to wrap in a warm cloak. The hospice team becomes that cloak to alleviate more than physical pain. Palliative care encompasses expert medical care, pain-and-symptom management, and emotional and spiritual support. All tailored to the patient's needs and

wishes. After the patient's death, hospice stays involved with the family through their bereavement services.

Hospice care is on a managed care system. Meaning Hospice Services receives a per diem (per day) amount regardless of services provided. The services covered by the insurance reimbursement include: hospice team, equipment, medical supplies, medications, laboratory, x-ray, staff, and other services. Services provided to each patient vary due to the situation. Medication for one patient may cost \$10 per day while for another \$200 per day.

"We do not discriminate our care based on cost," said Hospice Services nurse, Shelly Willems. "If a patient needs a medication or equipment they receive it."

## Giving when it counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks.

Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

You see understanding and attitude, after all, is everything.



# Christmas in July

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