

USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signups

MANHATTAN, Kansas, July 13, 2021 — Agricultural producers and landowners in Kansas can apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup from today until August 20. This year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increased the program's conservation and climate benefits, including setting a minimum rental rate and identifying two national priority zones.

The CRP Grassland signup is competitive, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

"USDA is excited to roll out our new and improved CRP Grasslands signup," said Charles Pettijohn, Acting State Executive Director for FSA in Kansas. "USDA is providing a bigger return on investment in terms of protecting natural resource benefits. The Grasslands signup is just one of the many tools available through CRP to help protect our nation's working lands."

CRP Grasslands helps Kansas landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and provides important carbon sequestration benefits.

FSA has updated the Grasslands Signup to establish a minimum rental rate of \$15 per acre, which will benefit 1,300 counties.

To focus on important wildlife corridors, FSA also identified National Grassland Priority Zones, providing extra incentives to producers for enrolling grasslands in important migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas — the Greater Yellowstone Elk Migration Corridor and the Severe Wind Erosion — Dust Bowl Zone. Counties within these two zones get extra ranking points as well as \$5 added to their rental rate. The CRP Grasslands Ranking Factors fact sheet has additional information.

How to Sign Up

To enroll in the CRP Grasslands signup, producers and landowners should contact USDA by the August 20 deadline. Service Center staff continue to work

with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

More Information on CRP

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. The program marked its 35-year anniversary this past December.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity, and natural resources, including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Health Services Board meets in May

Greeley County Health Services Inc. Board of Directors meeting minutes, Admin. Conference Room, May 26, 2021.

CALLED TO ORDER:
Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Brock Sloan, Board Chair.

Attending: Brock Sloan, Dan Hild, Chris Dixon, Linda Peterson, Ben Fisher
Administration/Staff: Trice Watts CEO/CFO, Katy Reynolds, Chrysanne Grund, Stacy Raven, Kaylee Cox

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:
Chris Dixon moves to approve the consent agenda, second by Linda Peterson. Motion carries 5-0.

POLICY:
EOP Policy presented by Josh Helpingstine. Scheduled power outage results discussed.

Dan Hild moves to approve the EOP Policy as presented, second by Ben Fisher. Motion carries 5-0.

Wallace County RHC EOP presented.

Dan moves to approve the Wallace County RHC EOP as presented, second by Chris Dixon. Motion carries 5-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS:
Human Resources/Marketing: Katy Reynolds Scholarship for healthcare students discussed.

Acute Nursing: Janie Schmidt

Written report reviewed.
LTC Nursing: Stacy Raven
Falls and fall detectors discussed.

Clinic: Kaylee Cox
Written report reviewed.
Special Projects Report: Chrysanne Grund

Written report reviewed.
Financial Report: Trice Watts

April financials were reviewed, and it was a busy month.

340B update.
Large maintenance expenses are deductible for the flood claim.

Health Benefit update.

Brock Sloan moves to approve the Construction Draw in the amount of \$80,230.76 second by Chris Dixon. Motion carries 5-0.

Chris Dixon moves to approve a board fund transfer in the amount of \$112,000.00, second by Dan Hild. Motion carries 5-0.

CEO Report: Trice Watts Strategic Solutions will be here in June.

Dr. Jenkins locums in July.

Sono equipment installed.
Re-licensing of LTC bed update.

Tax credit application was submitted, should hear by July 1st on approval.

Community and Employee health fair update.

June 7 & 8, OR flooring to be fixed.

Hospital open house discussion.

Clinic visits down.

Chris Dixon moves to approve the CEO expense form of \$124.00 as submitted, second by Ben Fisher. Motion carries 5-0.

Old Business:
High school scholarship application/timeline discussion, CEO and COO will work on a draft to bring back to the board.

New Business:
MJJ Memorial sponsorship.

Brock Sloan moves to approve the sponsorship of the MJJ Memorial Tournament in the same amount as in the past, second by Chris Dixon. Motion carries 5-0.

Annual letter to the board of supervisors discussed.

Dan Hild moves to approve the letter for 25 mills, second by Ben Fisher. Motion carries 5-0.

Credentialing presented by Kaylee Cox

Spencer Charles Anderson, PA P a i n Management Holistic Pain Management-Courtesy

Maximillian F. Beissel, MD Psychiatry FreeState-Consulting

Bessy Eapen George, DO Internal Medicine FreeState-Consulting

Daniel Joseph Herold, MD Radiology

Hasting Radiology Asso-Consulting

Syeda Fatima Quadri, MD Psychiatry FreeState-Consulting.

Linda Peterson moves to approve all for credentialing

as presented, second by Ben Fisher. Motion carries 5-0.

Brock Sloan resignation discussion. Board thanks Brock for all his time and expertise. June will be his last meeting.

Executive Session:
Brock Sloan moves to enter into executive session for a period of 20 minutes to include the board and Trice Watts CEO/CFO, for the purpose of discussions relating to the acquisition of real property, second by Dan Hild. Motion carries 5-0.

Session is entered at 6:21 p.m.

Session ends at 6:40 p.m.

Chris Dixon moves to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, to include the board and Trice Watts CEO/CFO, second by Dan Hild. Motion carries 5-0.

Session is entered at 6:42 p.m.

Session ends at 6:52 p.m.

Brock Sloan moves to have Trice continue negotiating real estate transactions, second by Dan Hild. Motion carries 5-0.

Brock Sloan moves to adjourn the meeting, second by Linda Peterson. Motion passes 5-0.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Next Month's Meeting: June 24, 2020 in the Education Room at 5:00 p.m.

Linda Peterson Board Secretary/Treasurer

Investing in small meat processors key to creating resilient food system

By Johnathan Hladik, policy director, Center for Rural Affairs

With demand for local foods growing steadily over the past 16 months, livestock producers and the processors they depend on have done all they can to keep up.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

As part of an executive order signed by President Joe Biden, Agriculture Sec. Tom Vilsack recently announced a \$500 million investment to expand capacity and increase competition in

meat and poultry processing. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide \$150 million to help small processing facilities weather the pandemic, compete in the marketplace, and reach more customers. This will include supporting value-added markets and local and regional food distribution systems.

While the pandemic exposed the vulnerability of our food system, the lack of competition in the marketplace has long been

an issue. By providing grants, loans and technical assistance to smaller facilities, the USDA can address concentration within the industry and create competitive options so that farmers, ranchers, and consumers have access to better choices and fairer prices.

USDA will soon be developing guidelines for each new program and a request for proposals is expected to be made available at the end of 2021. Meanwhile, applications

for the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness grant, announced earlier this year, are due on Aug. 2.

Announcing the plan from a small butcher shop in the heartland, Sec. Vilsack described it as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the food system. We applaud the administration's commitment to keeping this important piece of our rural economy going.

Summer Schedules - Insight

Kim Baldwin,

McPherson County farmer

A friend of mine recently asked when my family truly begins to enjoy summer. She asked this well-meaning question to help her figure out when we get to enjoy some rest and relaxation during the summer months. She has observed my family for many years and has recognized that while many others enjoy vacations during this time of the year, it seems as if my family does not get the "traditional" summer experience so many others do.

Before I met and eventually married my husband, I lived in a town where I taught. As soon as I had wrapped up my lessons for the year, cleaned my classroom and submitted my final grades, my summer break began. My summer breaks consisted of a lot of cookouts with friends and family, a lot of time in a swimming pool, and a lot of travel. I had a lot of things to do during my breaks, and I generally kept a pretty busy schedule to ensure I'd soak up all of what summer offered. Many nights I'd usually fall asleep exhausted from a busy summer day and get a good, hard sleep before rising with the sun the next morning.

When I look at what summers were like for me as a single teacher living in a small town compared to what my summers look like now on the farm, I can't help but recognize that some things remain the same yet appear different. During wheat harvest, I still experience meals with friends and family — although what is generally grilled at home is then packaged up and hauled

out to hungry people in a wheat field somewhere. I still enjoy meals with others while sitting in our lawn chairs, albeit the scenery and timeframes may look a little different.

My time relaxing at the pool with friends has transitioned to water time with my kids. Pool time is now generally centered around our stock tank pool that sits in our front yard. It's quite convenient for early morning or evening dips, and you don't have to deal with crowds or admission fees. Sometimes the kids and I enjoy a trip to a local splash pad or enjoy time at

our town's public pool. In either of these scenarios, we all enjoy a little refreshing break from the summer heat.

I also still get to travel during the summer months. Some days include unplanned short trips to a business in a nearby town to pick up irrigation or machine parts my husband needs. Unless the items are needed immediately, I usually have the kids put on their swimsuits under their clothes and pack some towels in the event we find a new community splash pad to enjoy. If we strike out with the splash pad on

our parts runs, we'll look for community parks or interesting things like murals to explore in these other communities. Sometimes, the kids and I can also sneak away for multiple days if schedules allow.

As the summer continues and hectic, timely tasks on the farm like wheat harvest and planting have transitioned more into an autopilot mode of things like managing irrigation. We still take advantage of the daylight hours and generally still collapse into our beds nightly well after the lightening bugs fill the air.

**Moser's Garage
will be
CLOSED
July 31st through
August 7th!**

LEGAL NOTICES

To be published in the Wednesday July 28, 2021 edition of The Greeley County Republican

PERFORMANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Unified Greeley County will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. MDT at the County Courthouse located at 400 W. Lawrence St., Tribune, Kansas for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Grant Number 20-CV-063. The CDBG application proposed a grant request for economic relief to grant funds to eligible businesses in Dodge City due to Covid-19. The project assisted three micro/Ed businesses which resulted in the retention of 5.75 full time equivalent jobs of which 100% met the low-to-moderate income requirement of the project. The project was funded all or in part from the Kansas Department of Commerce, Small Cities Community Development Block Grant CV funds. All aspects of the grant will be discussed, and oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of Unified Greeley County's Citizen Participation Plan.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the County Clerk by Friday, August 6, 2021.

Kirby Kleyman
Chairman

The Running Rabbits will be sponsoring a 2 mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, August 7th, beginning at 7:30 am MT from the Greeley County in front of the swimming pool. Registration will begin at 6:30 am MT. Entry Fee is \$20, and all entries will receive a T-shirt. All entries received before July 24th will get their shirt the day of the race. Entries received after July 24th will have their shirts mailed to them. Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers in each age group for both male and female in the 2 mile Run/Walk. For more information contact Greg Cook at 620-376-8012.

ENTRY FORM for Greeley County Fair 2 mile Fun Run/Walk - Saturday, August 7th, 2021.
Registration: 6:30 am MT - Fun Run/Walk 7:30 am MT at Greeley County Swimming Pool \$20.00 entry fee

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP-CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ Age day of Race (Aug 1st) _____

AGE GROUPS: 13 and under; 14-25; 26-35; 36-49; 50+

GENDER: FEMALE MALE

SIZE OF T-SHIRT (adult sizes): S M L XL XXL

I _____ (parent/guardian if participant is under age 18) understand that there are risk involved by participating and/or watching this event. I hereby release the Greeley County Fair Board, Greg Cook, and all the event staff from any and all liability from participation in this event. To pre-register send your entry form to Greg Cook, Box 263, Tribune, KS 67879. Make checks payable to Running Rabbits.