

## DCP Deadline Nears



**APRIL 1** is the last date to update your crop bases and yields under the Direct and Counter - Cyclical Program (DCP). ***This deadline is outlined in the legislation and will not be extended.*** This process will take at least one hour per farm so please don't wait until the last day because by then it will be too late. To avoid unnecessary delays and to assure that you will be waited on when you visit our office, we encourage you to make an appointment immediately. We recommend you call and set an appointment with us by March 1 to get all the necessary paperwork started. The available options may seem overwhelming, but breaking down the options helps to simplify the process.

- If you were in the Production Flexibility Contract (PFC) program and you planted corn, oats, wheat, cotton, barley or any other covered commodity on that farm between 1998 and 2001, you have two options: use the PFC base or the 4-year average of those commodities planted.
- If you did not plant a commodity crop on a PFC farm between 1998 and 2001, your DCP base is established using the farm's existing PFC base.
- A farm that did not participate in PFC will have a base created using their historical plantings of covered commodities between 1998-2001.
- PFC farms that grew soybeans or minor oilseeds between 1998 and 2001 have five options for updating crop bases.

Bases not updated by April 1 will automatically revert to the PFC base. ***If your farm was not enrolled in PFC, you will end up with a zero base. So it is important for non-participants to act now!*** Also, remember:

- Landowner signatures are required to update bases and yields and to receive an advance payment.
- Only farmers who have a risk in the crop are eligible for DCP payments.
- Landowners cash leasing their entire farm to a farmer are not eligible for the DCP payment. However, they must still approve the base and yield updates.

## Payment Limitation/Eligibility



USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions. Documents and forms to determine eligibility are reviewed on an annual basis. It is your responsibility to report changes in your farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. You must provide the office with documentation of who can sign on behalf of the entity. Other payment limitation (PL) requirements to consider are:

- The producer or the County Committee may initiate PL and eligibility determinations
- All producers are subject to end-of-year reviews to ensure operations are farmed according to the way your farm operating plan is filed.
- Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for PL if this determination is requested and the applicable requirements are met.
- A determination of "not actively engaged in farming" results in program ineligibility.

The following list indicates programs requiring PL determinations and the maximum payment limit:

For wheat, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, & minor oilseeds:

**Potter/Armstrong  
USDA Service Center  
6565 Amarillo Blvd W  
Ste D  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
Phone: (806) 468-8600  
Fax: (806) 468-7173**

**County Committee**

**Mike Menke -**

**Chairman**

**Brooks Gunter -**

**Vice Chairman**

**Jerry Osborn -**

**Member**

**County Office Staff**

**Leta Walker**

**Liz Lobban**

**Karan Jolly**

**LaDonna Adkins**

**Farm Loan Manager**

**Mike Heck @**

**(806) 435-6597**

**County Executive**

**Director**

**Albert Aguilar, Jr.**

**Regular Meeting Date**

**2nd Thursday of each  
Month at 9:00 A.M.**

**Office Hours**

**8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**Monday - Friday**

DCP/Direct Payment - \$40,000  
DCP/Counter-Cyclical Payment - \$65,000  
LDP/Market Gains - \$75,000  
Environmental Quality Incentive Payments (EQIP) - \$450,000  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - \$50,000  
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - \$200,000  
Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) - \$100,000



**Adjusted  
Gross Income  
Provisions  
Take Effect**

"Adjusted Gross Income" (AGI) limitations will be effective starting with the 2003 crop year. This limitation states an individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive certain benefits if the individual or entity's AGI exceeds \$2.5 million and less than 75 percent of the gross income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations. AGI is required for DCP, conservation programs, LDP's and marketing loan gains. AGI takes into account income from the three previous years. For 2003 payment eligibility purposes, the AGI amounts reported for the years 2002, 2001, and 2000 will be used. Each individual must complete the AGI form. For an entity, both the entity and the individuals in the entity must complete the form.

**Attention Husbands & Wives**

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation Programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. Husbands and wives who have "official" joint ventures or partnerships must have a power of attorney on file to sign for the entity.

**County Committee  
Election Results**



The County Committee (COC) completed tabulation of your ballots during the December open meeting. The election results for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 are:

Brooks Gunter Elected to COC  
James Thompson 1st alternate to COC  
John Ferris 2nd alternate to COC

Christella Doyle will be the new COC Advisor

Thank you for taking the time to complete your election ballot. The Committee system works only because of your participation.

**2003 Acreage Reporting  
Requirements**

We would like to remind you of the following acreage reporting requirements for the 2003 crop year:

- Wheat Pasture -15 days prior to turning cattle in
- Native Grass - 15 days prior to turning cattle in, but no later than May 15, 2003
- Forage Crops - 15 days prior to the onset of harvest
- Small Grains for harvest - May 15, 2003
- Summer Crops for harvest - July 15, 2003

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