

# USDA NEWS RELEASE FSA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ACRE Decision Tools Available

May 28, 2009 - USDA's Farm Service Agency announced that new online research and planning tools are now available for farmers and ranchers to assist them in examining how the new 2008 Farm Bill programs apply to their crops and operations.

ACRE or the *Average Crop Revenue Election Program*, is a new revenue-based guarantee program administered by FSA that assists farmers and ranchers in managing the risks inherent in agricultural operations. ACRE is an alternative to the traditional price-stabilizing counter-cyclical payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

By visiting the Montana FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) and clicking on the 2008 Farm Bill under the Hot Links section and then selecting National DCP Website, growers may enter their crops, acreages, and price/yield projections in an ACRE Calculator to evaluate potential results. The calculator tool and other valuable information including ACRE Background Information, Fact Sheet, Preliminary Price Guarantees, State Benchmark Yields, and County Yields that will be used in establishing Farm Benchmark Yields can be found at the above website.

August 14 is the deadline to elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 Crop Year. Note that once a producer elects to participate in ACRE, the farm is no longer eligible for the regular Direct and Counter-cyclical Program through the 2012 Crop Year, the last year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Producers should carefully evaluate their participation in ACRE. Payments in ACRE are made only when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

For more information about your options under ACRE and other new Farm Bill programs, contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office to schedule an appointment. You can also visit the Montana FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) to obtain the location of your nearest office.

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