



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

May 2007

GRAZE-OUT

The application period for GRAZE-OUT begins on the first day of mechanical harvest as determined by COC for the crops of wheat, barley, oats, and triticale. The application period ends on March 31, of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested. Producers may file an application for GRAZE-OUT anytime during the application period. The GRAZE-OUT payment rate is determined by the amount the applicable commodity loan rate exceeds the CCC-determined value of the commodity for the county where the farm is located.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers don't forget, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940

Relief from foreclosure, sale, or seizure of property for nonpayment of a loan obligation, during the period of active military service or within 3 months thereafter, is offered to Marketing Assistance Loan borrowers who are on active duty anywhere in the world and are active duty members of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, or U.S. Coast Guard. Also, Treasury and internal administrative offsets will be discontinued once a producer is ordered to report for induction or military service. Contact your local FSA Office for more information.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign-up Extended to August 3, 2007

Sign-up to participate in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program has been extended to August 3, 2007. The CCC-509 (DCP Contract) must be submitted by August 3, 2007, with all signatures. For producers who enroll in the DCP program after August 3, 2007, a late-filed fee of \$100.00 per farm will be assessed.

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Wetland Points Symbology and Disclaimer on Common Land Unit (CLU) Maps

FSA and NRCS National Offices collaboratively have decided that the wetland symbol legend of a “blue dot” that is currently being used on FSA digital maps may be confusing and needs to be revised. FSA digital maps legends will be revised to the following:

- A Red Octagon – “Restricted Use”
- Upside-Down Yellow Triangle – “Limited Restrictions”
- Green Square – “Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions”
- Contain the following disclaimer - “Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-1026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS.”

To find out how your county is progressing with the new digital maps, access the following link on the FSA State Office Internet page:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/march_2007_clu_progress_report.pdf .

Some counties have completed and are currently using the new digital maps. All remaining counties are expected to be completed and using the new digital maps for the 2008 crop year. Producers are reminded that once a county finishes their maps a notification letter is sent allowing 30 days for producers to review and modify. After that time the line work and associated acres are permanent and official. New acreages may affect program payments such as DCP, NAP, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Don't miss your opportunity for review.

Impact of Various Lease Agreements On Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Contracts

Due to the recent spike in cash grain prices, many renters and landlords are becoming more creative in the way rent is figured. While this is certainly acceptable, it may require the landlords to be party to the DCP contract. If rent is based on the amount of crop produced or the income derived from that crop (whether or not the crop is actually grown), or any combination of the two, the lease is considered a share lease, and the landlord must receive a share of the DCP contract payment. FSA determines that the landlord shares in the risk of the crop. Additional information can be obtained from your local FSA Office.

Capital Contributions for Payment Limitation Purposes

Producer and lenders are reminded that current year advance program payments, such as advance direct payments, are **NOT** considered a capital contribution for the purposes of meeting the requirements of “actively engaged in farming”. The applicant is **NOT** eligible to receive such program payments until after the determination of “actively engaged in farming” is made by the County Office Committee (COC) or reviewing authority.

Participation in Both Farm Programs and Farm Loan Programs

Producers and lenders are being reminded that FSA must ensure that producers consistently participate in Farm Loans Programs and Farm Programs, such as but not limited to DCP, LDP's, and CRP. For example: If FSA Farm Loan approves a loan for an individual to produce crops on FSN 100, then the applicable DCP payments must reflect that he is receiving payments as an individual and not as a corporation, partnership, or other. Producers are also reminded, although FSA is monitoring both Farm Loans and Farm Programs for consistency, farm producers are the ones that must be in compliance with all FSA programs.

**Expiring of Voluntarily Terminating Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Contract Acres Could Increase Your
Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Payments**

Farms with CRP contracts that will expire or are voluntarily terminated *before September 2007* may have acreage eligible to be enrolled in the DCP Program. Throughout different farm bills reduction of base and or Production Flexibility (PFC) acres was required in some situations upon enrollment into the CRP Program. New procedure may allow for restoration of these acres as base acres for the DCP Program. Producers with acreage coming out of the CRP Program should visit their local FSA Office to determine eligibility. Farms meeting the criteria must have the restored acres enrolled into DCP by August 3, 2007. DCP enrollment after August 3, 2007 through September 30, 2007 will require a late-payment fee of \$100.00 per farm.

Reconstitution of Enrolled DCP Farms

Farm reconstituted after enrolled in the DCP program are no longer considered enrolled in DCP since the farm number and farm structure is changed. The new resulting farm(s) after reconstitution may be enrolled. The deadline for 2007 enrollment is the later of either August 3, 2007, or 30 calendar days following producer notification of reconstitution. Farms missing the deadline can pay the \$100.00 late-filed fee to enroll until September 30, 2007.

Prevented Planted and Failed Acreage

Prevented Planted Provisions – Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to disaster-related conditions. To be considered timely filed, prevented planted acres should be reported no later than **15 calendar days after the final planting date** established by Federal Crop Insurance. **Final planting dates are listed in this SCOOP under Program Deadlines.** County Committee review and action are required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

County Committee may not approve acreage that:

- Was not planted because of a management decision
- Was used for conservation purpose, including any that was intended to be left idle
- Had a previous or subsequent crop planted that does not meet the double-cropping provisions
- Does not meet other applicable rules.

Failed Acreage Provisions – Producers should report failed crop acres to their local FSA Office when the crop is failed due to disaster-related conditions. To be timely filed, acreage reports for failed acreage shall be filed **before the crop is destroyed.** County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. For crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available, you may be eligible for Non-Insurance Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall-Seeded Crops is May 15, 2007

May 15, 2007, is the deadline to report fall-seeded crops to your local FSA Office. Acreage reports are required to be eligible to receive DCP Payments.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have services completed on the farm. Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Program Deadlines

FCIC Final Planting Date for Corn	May 10, 2007
2006 NAP acreage reporting date for broccoli, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, lettuce, potatoes and strawberries	May 15, 2007
Reporting Acreage of Fall-Seeded Crops	May 15, 2007
FCIC Final Planting for Cotton for Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, St. Francis, White and Woodruff Counties.	May 20, 2007
FCIC Final Planting date for Peanuts	
FCIC Final Planting Date for Cotton for Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Lonoke, Miller, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, and Pulaski Counties	May 25, 2007
FCIC Final Planting Date for Rice	May 31, 2007
Final 2006 Loan and LDP Availability for Corn, Rice, Cotton, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed.	May 31, 2007
FCIC Final Planting Date for Grain Sorghum	June 10, 2007
FCIC Final Planting Date for Soybeans	June 15, 2007
Final date to request a reconstitution for a farm participating in DCP	August 1, 2007
2007 DCP Signup Ends	August 3, 2007
DCP Late-filed Sign-up \$100.00	August 3 – September 30, 2007
Final Date to Report Changes in Farm Operation	September 30, 2007