



Farm Service Agency News Release



**Indiana Farm Service Agency
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DCP Signup Begins October 1, 2003

Signup for the 2004 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) is starting October 1, 2003 at Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide. DCP provides payments to eligible producers who enroll their farms each fiscal year during the current farm bill. Both direct payments and counter-cyclical payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields that have been established for each individual farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary with the average price of program commodities each marketing year. When crop values are high, counter-cyclical payments are zero. However, direct payments are constant, with up to 50% of a farm's calculated direct payment available in December. If an advance on the direct payment is not requested, the entire payment on an enrolled farm will be issued in October following the end of the fiscal year.

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to book an appointment for DCP enrollment. Even though the deadline for sign-up is June 1, 2004, producers wanting more income in 2003 need to sign-up timely. One of the documents involved in DCP enrollment is the contract, or CCC-509. Producers also need a farm operating plan (CCC-502), an AGI certification (CCC-526) and conservation compliance certification (AD-1026). Next spring, crop acreage reports on form FSA-578 will document what was planted and where the crops are located.

FSA is also in the process of digitizing data, like crop planting information, in order to compare with other data that will lead to better environmental analysis. Future USDA programs will be tailored to

agricultural needs based on the analysis of data compiled by several agencies. FSA and its sister agencies are working in concert to achieve synergistic insights, and new statistical information. A better understanding of agricultural distribution will lead to improved efficiencies for farmers everywhere. USDA is constantly striving to advance agricultural productivity and improve the economic output of the nation.

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