



May 2004

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Fred Ferrell
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director
Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Maurine Long, Price Support
Max Sell, Production Flexibility

Soybean Request for Referendum

USDA is offering soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act.

The request for referendum is being conducted at Farm Service Agency county offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2002, through Dec. 31, 2003. Only those producers who desire a referendum on the order will participate.

Beginning May 3, and continuing through May 28, producers may obtain a form to request a referendum from the county office staff either in person or by sending a request by mail or fax. Forms may also be obtained at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-soy.htm>.

Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the County FSA Office where the producer owns or rents land.

Mail in requests must be postmarked by May 28, 2004, and received in the county office by June 7, 2004. All other requests made by fax or in person, must be received in the county office by May 28, 2004.

USDA will conduct a referendum on the order if a least 10 percent of the 663,880 soybean producers request a referendum, provided that no more than one-fifth be producers from one state.

The request for referendum is mandated by the act. The act requires that the secretary of agriculture conduct a request for referendum every five years after the initial referendum, which was conducted in 1994.

DCP Contract Reminder

Producers, are you planning to participate in the 2004 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program? If so, you must remember to visit the county office to designate shares and sign your 2004 DCP contract (CCC-509) before June 1. (You can sign your contract after June 1 and before Sept. 30, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100.)

Dates to Remember	
Today	Report changes to farming operation.
May 31	Memorial Day holiday. FSA offices closed
June 1	Deadline to apply for loans, LDPs for feed grains, soybeans, cotton, rice, sunflowers
June 1	DCP signature deadline
July 5	Independence Day holiday observed. FSA offices closed
July 31	Final reporting date for all other crops
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Grasslands Reserve Program
Ongoing	Milk Income Loss Contract Program

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities or peanuts with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

Managed Haying, Grazing

Managed haying and grazing are allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land, but there are restrictions and conditions producers should know about. Managed haying and grazing cannot occur: 1. on acreage hayed or grazed under managed or emergency provisions within the previous two years, or 2. during the primary nesting and brood rearing season.

A 25 percent payment reduction will be assessed for managed haying and grazing.

Visit with the county office staff if you have any questions.

Counter-cyclical Payments

Producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program are eligible to receive counter-cyclical payments for covered commodities when forecasts have market prices below target prices. Payments may be authorized for covered commodities, depending on the projected market prices as follows:

- 35 percent of the projected payment rate to be paid on or after October 1 following the contract period;
- 70 percent of the revised projected payment rate, minus any counter-cyclical payment already issued for the covered commodity, to be paid after February 1 following the contract period;
- the final payment is the difference between the actual calculated counter-cyclical payment and partial counter-cyclical payments already issued for the covered commodity, to be paid after the 12-month marketing year for the crop.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2004	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.625%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	2.250%

Partial payments are issued based on estimates of counter-cyclical payment rates. Final payments are issued on the actual counter-cyclical payment rate. Producers who receive partial payments from the first two counter-cyclical installments must repay any excess amounts when these payments exceed the final counter-cyclical payment for each commodity. Producers will be notified after final market prices are determined and will be required to refund any overpayments.

Producers can track the 2003-2004 Monthly Average Market Prices To Date and Market Year Average Price Forecast for Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Commodities at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farbill/mya_entry.htm.

Loan, LDP Availability

May 31 is normally the final availability date for marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2003 crop year corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed. However, since Memorial Day falls on May 31 this year, the final availability date will be Tuesday, June 1.

Please contact the county office staff if you have any questions.

Wheat Incentive Continues

Sign up for the 2003 Hard White Wheat Incentive Program started on March 3, 2003, and runs through May 31, 2004. The HWWIP provides an incentive for producers to grow hard white wheat of both spring and winter varieties from the 2003 through 2005 crop years. The program provides two payments to producers: an incentive payment of \$0.20 for each bushel of eligible hard white wheat produced, with a maximum of 60 bushels per acre eligible for payment, and a payment of \$2.00 per acre for each acre planted to certified seed. Producers are eligible to receive both the production incentive and certified seed incentive, if all applicable eligibility requirements are met.

The purpose of the program is to create an incentive for producers to plant hard white wheat, of winter and spring varieties, which would subsequently increase production for domestic and export markets. Target markets are predominantly in Southeast Asia, where hard white wheat varieties are used to produce noodles.

Contact the county office staff for additional information.

Burley Acreage Report

If you're planting burley tobacco, don't forget that mandatory acreage reporting for burley tobacco began with the 2001 crop year. All farms with an effective quota greater than zero are required to report acreage planted to burley, including zero acres, by July 31.

The county office staff will not be able to issue a marketing card unless an acreage report is filed for the farm.

Farms with an effective burley quota that will not plant burley or lease quota from the farm must report a zero acreage for burley tobacco, or the farm will be subject to quota reduction for the applicable burley marketing quota next established for the farm.

Acreage Reporting

Favorable weather during the last several weeks has provided farmers many days that were suitable for fieldwork. A drier than normal April in some areas has permitted early plantings and allowed good conditions for a variety of field applications. Some producers who got an early start have nearly finished their spring plantings. Once the spring planting is completed, it is a good time to call the Farm Service Agency county office staff for an appointment to certify all crops and the acreage of each field. Reporting deadlines vary from state to state for small grains and coarse grains, so contact your local county office staff as soon as planting is complete.

Crop and acreage reporting is necessary for many programs and it's a good way to maintain history. Certified acreage reports are tools used by county office staffs to determine compliance with certain farm programs and, perhaps, the eligibility level in future programs. Throughout farm program history, compiled acreage data have been used to develop new and better farm programs while providing farmers with valuable statistical data. Fall seeded crops and small grains, such as wheat, barley and oats, have an earlier report deadline than coarse grains, such as beans and corn. An acreage report filed after a crop-reporting deadline carries with it a late filing fee.

Measurement service can be requested by a producer to determine exact acreage for reporting purposes. A paid measurement service effectively guarantees the producer official acreages for the crops on which the service is performed. Trained field personnel at FSA are beginning to use Global Positioning Systems that utilize satellite information to measure crop acreages. GPS information is used to determine field boundaries that in turn determine the crop acreages. This is one of the ways FSA is offering producers state of the art measurement technology to create a more useful data base of information that farmers can use to improve their productivity and efficiency.

Calculating Producer History

Producers who intend to plant fruits, vegetables or wild rice (FAV/WR) on base acreage enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, should contact the county office staff to calculate their producer history if the following FAV/WR double cropping or farm history exceptions do not apply.

Double-cropping Regions. FAV/WR are planted in a double-cropping practice with a DCP eligible commodity. The farm must be in a county approved for double-cropping DCP eligible commodities with FAV/WR. If you are not sure whether your county has or has not been established as a double-cropping region,

check with the county office staff. In this exception, DCP payments are not reduced for such plantings

Farm History. FAV/WR are planted on a farm with an established history of such planting. The WR/FAV history is based on the farm's planting for crop years 1991-1995 and 1998-2001. In this exception, although no contract violation results, the DCP payment acres will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to a FAV/WR.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).