



# GRAHAM/GREENLEE COUNTY Farm Service News

## Farm Service Agency Graham/Greenlee

### County / State Office

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Fax (928) 428-4248  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

John Howard

Albert Noland  
Kathy Sergent  
Pearl Willis  
Jane Wyatt

### County Executive Director

Ruth Veit  
[ruth.veit@az.usda.gov](mailto:ruth.veit@az.usda.gov)

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA local office.

For a list of local offices, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

## NCGA hosting free July 1st ACRE webinar

With the sign-up deadline for the Average Crop Revenue Election, or ACRE, program in mid-August, the National Corn Growers Association is urging growers to learn more about ACRE through NCGA's on-line "webinar", on Wednesday, July 1, from 8 to 9 a.m. central. NCGA chairman Ron Litterer tells Brownfield that ACRE has risk management advantages for corn and soybean growers in particular. Right now, he says producers have to be thinking about the volatility of the marketplace and what it means to their operations, "And does the current bill, with fixed payments/loan rates down around \$2 give them any support? You know, there's such a thing that maybe the ACRE program isn't going to provide any support either, but if that happens you really didn't need it."

Under ACRE, producers pay a small part of their fixed payment but by giving that up, Litterer says, they gain considerable risk coverage.

Litterer, who farms in Iowa, signed up his acres in the ACRE program on Monday. The deadline for sign-up is August 14th.

To register for the free July first ACRE Webinar, go online to: [www.NCGA.com](http://www.NCGA.com)

## FSA COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 3, 2009 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News &

Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 6, 2009. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 7, 2009.

ceive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office.

## DCP & ACRE SIGNUP DEADLINE

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For

2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.



The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

### **NEW PAYMENT LIMITATIONS**

Over time the payment limitation provisions have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

- **New forms for 2009 and subsequent years**

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

- **Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity**
- All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*
- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

For detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.



### **CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops with the exception of small grains is August 14, 2009.

### **2010 NURSERY CROP YEAR AND APPLICATION CLOSING DATE**

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for 2010 nursery is **September 1, 2009**. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

The NAP coverage period and NAP year for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. However, the 2010 NAP coverage will be retroactive to June 1, 2009. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date. To apply for continuous coverage, producers must pay the applicable service fee before the application closing date.

Producers considered as limited resource are not subject to annual fees. Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Contact your local office for more information or at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**HELP AVAILABLE TO STRESSED FARMERS**

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.



**COMPLIANCE SPOT CHECKS**

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2009 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists according to posted instructions. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

**NAP COVERAGE DEADLINES**

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using

form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop deadline date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may re-quest a waiver for service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

September 1, 2009	crustaceans, stock flowers, and garlic Nursery Crops
October 31, 2009	Alfalfa, Barley, Cantaloupe, native grass, honeydews, lettuce, rye, and wheat
November 20, 2009	apples, apricots, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums and watermelon
November 30, 2009	Potatoes
January 31, 2010	Cucumbers, grapes, Bermuda and Sudan Grass Basil Herbs, Jojoba, Pecans, and Chili Peppers
February 28, 2010	Pinto Beans, Corn, Upland Cotton, ELS Cotton, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkin, Sorghum, Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, and Squash
May 31, 2010	Nursery Crops

### Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Dates to Remember	
July 3	Office Closed
August 14	Last Day to report all other crops
July 15	Last day to report 2008 production for NAP coverage
Aug 1	Last day to request farm changes
Aug 3	Last day to nomination for COC election
Aug 14	Last Day to sign up for DCP
<b>Within 15 days</b>	Notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent. (drought, flood, Hail, Etc)

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."  
 Special accommodations will be made upon request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Ruth Veit, County Executive Director, (928) 428-5560 Ex 2.