



May 2010 *Sacramento/Amador/El Dorado/Placer* FSA County News

Elk Grove USDA Service Center

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Elk Grove, CA. 95624

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916-714-1117 (Fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FSA Staff

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ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates.

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 or join us for a town hall meeting on May 17, 2010:

ACRE Townhall Meeting
May 17, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m.
Elk Grove USDA Service Center
9701 Dino Drive Suite 170
Elk Grove, CA. 95624

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs

- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeelectform.pdf

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

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Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election.
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Causes for ineligibility:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee.
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony.
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More infor-

mation about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member."

The Sacramento/Amador/El Dorado/Placer County FSA Committee LAA's open for the 2010 COC election are LAA1, 2 & 6. Please see the map of the 2010 Local Administrative Areas on Page 4 of this newsletter to determine if you are in one of these LAA's

DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Contact the nearest FSA office for more information .

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. Another reason is when an owner and operator cannot agree about program participation (for example - ACRE participation).

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 2, 2010 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your current commercial lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early.

FSA employees can help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required and where to find it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states that eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years,
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years.

Pulse crops are defined as:

- Dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled) intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils - any intended use.
- Large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans) any intended use.
- Small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans) any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

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2010 Sacramento/Amador/El Dorado/Placer County FSA Committee Local Administrative Areas

<p>2010 LAA's open for election descriptions:</p> <p>LAA 1 – Sacramento County: All of County north of Jackson Highway to Grantline Road, Northwest of Grantline Road to Calvine Road, North of Calvine Road to Highway 99, East of Highway 99 to Mack Road, North of Mack Road/Meadowview Road/Pocket Road to the Yolo County Line.</p> <p>LAA2 – Sacramento County: All of County west of Highway 99 and South of Mack Road/Meadowview Road/Pocket Road.</p> <p>LAA 6 – Placer County: All of county east of Mc Courtney Road to Highway 193, north of Highway 193 to Sierra College Blvd, east of Sierra College Blvd to the County Line.</p>	
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Dates to Remember	
1 June	DCP Sign-up Closes
1 June	Recons Should be Filed
15 June	COC Nomination Period Opens
2 August	Last Day to File COC Nominations

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