

April 2013



## Calhoun County FSA Updates

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### Calhoun County FSA Office

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Beth Korn, Chairperson  
Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair  
Sharon Williams, Member  
Denice Raymond, Advisor



### DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the August 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise, producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information. Please call 269-781-4263 x 2 for your appointment.

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### CRP Sign-Up Starts Soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, contact our office at 269-781-4263 x 2 or check out these programs online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **Your patience is appreciated!**

Your patience is appreciated while we learn to use the new MIDAS system in the FSA office. MIDAS stands for Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems. The MIDAS project will transform the way FSA delivers services and benefits to farmers and ranchers throughout the United States.

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## **Adjusted Gross Income**

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or at the following: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc933>.

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## **Landowner Designation for Farm or Tract Divisions**

Producers requesting a reconstitution may use the landowner designation method, which is the division of contract acres in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser. This method of land division may be used when any of the following apply:

- part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred;
- an entire farm is sold to two or more persons;
- farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons;
- part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred;
- a tract is sold to two or more persons;
- tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons.

ALL of the sellers and the buyers must sign the *Request for Farm Reconstitution* or a written Memorandum of Understanding, designating contract acres and allotments before the farm is reconstituted or any subsequent transfer of ownership occurs. Please note a deed is not a memorandum of understanding. In addition, all land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years in order to use this method of division. If the land is subject to a lien, mortgage, or deed of trust, the holder must agree to the crop designations in writing. Please contact your FSA office for more information.

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## **Use This Summer to Reconnect Your Children With Nature.....the Benefits Will Last a Lifetime!**

Summer is almost here! School will be out soon and there's one big question looming large for parents: "What are the kids going to *do*?" Summer should be a time for roaming, discovering and running outside -- but unfortunately, for all too many kids, more free time means more screen time. It's up to you as a parent to ensure that your kids get a healthy daily dose of outdoor play. Children thrive when they are given the freedom to play outside and discover the world around them. Playing in the great outdoors is one of the best ways for your children to grow and develop and learn to respect and enjoy nature! Calhoun Conservation District's Summer Day Camp is the perfect solution! Held at Wilder Creek Conservation Club (19833 D Drive S in Marshall), the Camp is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year and continues to offer children ages 5 through 12 a place to explore the wonders of nature and learn all about our natural resources. Camp starts on July 8<sup>th</sup> and runs weekly themes through August 16<sup>th</sup>. Come one week, two weeks, or all six.....it's your choice! Scholarships are available to those financially unable to pay the entire \$100 weekly fee. To obtain a registration form or for more information, please contact Tracy Bronson at (269) 781-4867, x5 or visit the website at [www.calhouncd.org](http://www.calhouncd.org).

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).