

March 2013



Clinton County FSA Updates

Clinton County FSA Office

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General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup Scheduled for Spring

Signup: May 20 - June 14, 2013

Signup information will be sent in a future bulletin.

CRP has a 27-year legacy of protecting 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 Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Continuous CRP practices - we are still waiting for authorization to enroll land into continuous CRP practices (SAFE, waterways, filter strips) We are keeping a list of interested parties to contact when sign-up begins. Please call the office if you would like to be placed on the list.

2013 Direct and Counter- Cyclical Program (DCP)

Sign up ends: August 2, 2013

Farms that were previously enrolled in DCP may elect to participate in ACRE.

Basic Program Rules:

- * Base acres must be planted to an annual crop, be in hay or idle grasses. Fruits & Vegetables (FAV) cannot be planted on base acres unless the farm or producer has FAV history. In cases where FAVs can be planted, the producer will receive an acre-for acre reduction in their program payment.
- * Farms must have more than 10 acres of base to participate. Exceptions apply to socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers
- * Payments can only be earned by the person who has the risk in producing and marketing the crop
- * Annual certification of all cropland on the farm is required

- * Highly Erodible & Wetland (HEL/WC) provisions apply
- * Land leases must include at a minimum:
 - * Land owner and operators names printed, signatures and signature dates
 - * Length of lease (If multiple year lease list number of years)
 - Leases containing wording allowing the continuation past the terms of the lease in effect must have a notification by date (Month and day) disclosing the final date of termination.
 - * Type of lease (cash lease, barter lease and barter terms)
 - Specify the number of acres you are leasing if it is less than the total cropland attached to the farm.
 - Please be assured that any information contained in your leases will be kept confidential.

Farm Cash Rent Certification can be completed in place of a cash lease if a previous lease was provided. Exceptions would be for land rented for the first time including land increases from the same owner.

Direct Payment is a guaranteed payment. Payment is calculated using the farm base & yield. Payment rates are: corn .28, wheat .52, barley, .24, oats .24 and soybeans .44 (payment x base x 85% x yield x share x payment rate). There will be no advance payments issued for 2013.

Counter-Cyclical Payment is a payment based on a 12-month marketing cycle in comparison to the target price. This is not a guaranteed payment.

Appointments: We are taking appointments for sign up so please call the office at 989-224-3720 to schedule a time.

2013 Acreage Crop Revenue Program (ACRE)

Sign up ends: June 3, 2013

Farms that were previously enrolled in ACRE may elect to participate in DCP.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- * Forgo counter-cyclical payments
- * Accept a 20% reduction in the guaranteed direct payment
- * Accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

ACRE payments are revenue based and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market price for planted covered commodity crops on the farm.

Reporting requirements: producers who participate in ACRE must annually report acreage and **production** to FSA.

Farm Operation Changes

Producers who have bought, sold, added or dropped land from their operation must report changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Please get records updated prior to scheduling your DCP/ACRE appointment. Failure to do so could delay program sign-up.

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months of when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Operating Loan rates.

USDA Historic Aerial Photography

The USDA/Farm Service Agency has been collecting aerial photography of the United States for over half a century. These aerial photos were originally collected to support federal farm programs throughout the United States. This historic film is now stored at the USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We would like to let you know that these historic photos are available to the general public. The following years of imagery are available for Clinton County:

Clinton – 26037 (BDJ): 1957, 1964, 1973, 1981, 1986, 1993, 1998, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2010

You can order this aerial imagery by contacting the APFO by phone, fax, mail or email. Please be prepared to provide an accurate description of the area you wish to be included in your photo; this can be a legal description, latitude and longitude, or a local map. All products are made to order and completion time may vary depending on existing workload. Please include your name, address and phone number with your inquiry.

Customer Service Section
Phone: 801-844-2922
Fax: 801-956-3653
Email: apfo.sales@slc.usda.gov

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More information about our products and services is available on our website: www.apfo.usda.gov

FSA Web Page

For more information on FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).