



# ANDREW COUNTY NEWS

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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## USDA Responds To Producer Concerns By Extending Sign-UP Date For DCP & ACRE Programs

USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1 to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

Extending the sign-up deadline for both these programs ensure that America's farmers have enough information and time needed to determine if ACRE is the right program for their operational needs. The DCP and ACRE programs play a critical role in the farm safety net and it is vital that we act to support the hard work of the farmers on which we depend. **Sign-up for ACRE is expected to start April 27th.** Producers can elect ACRE at their FSA county office after the sign-up period commences. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, 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, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act. For more information about ACRE, DCP and other price support programs, please visit your local USDA Service Center. You can also obtain information on-line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### Andrew County FSA

105 Hwy. 71 West  
Savannah, MO 64485  
816-324-3196 (phone)  
816-324-5879 (fax)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Roger Scott, Chairperson  
James Steeby, Vice - Chair  
Karen Strasser, Member

Meets 3rd Friday of each  
Month at 9:30 a.m.

### Staff

Bob Caldwell, CED  
Charlotte Holeman, FLM  
Sindy Barr, PT  
Carrie Noland, PT  
Allyson Wells, PT  
John Wheeler, FA  
Megan Barr, Temp

## The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. 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-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. **ACRE sign-up will start April 27th.** Producers can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.



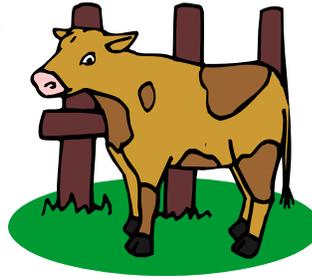
## Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

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## MILC Sign-up

The sign-up for the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) continues. The extended sign-up phase began on Jan. 22, 2009. The extended sign-up will continue throughout the duration of the MILC program, ending on September 30, 2012.



When available, MILC payments are based on a payment rate percentage that is multiplied by the difference between a now-flexible target (\$16.94 per cwt. or higher) and the specific month's Boston Class I price of milk. Producers who have signed up and brought in production evidence were recently paid \$1.51 per cwt. for February marketings.

## April Select Interest Rates

- ◆ Farm Operating-Direct 2.25 %
- ◆ Farm Ownership Direct 4.125%
- ◆ Limited Resource 5.00%
- ◆ Farm Ownership-Direct Down Payment or Beginning Farmer 1.5%
- ◆ Emergency 3.75%
- ◆ Farm Storage Facility 2.5%
- ◆ Commodity Grain Loans 1.625%
- ◆

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, 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. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used to divide bases when doing a farm recon.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding. NOTE: it is highly recommended that an agreement is reached between buyer and seller on how the bases are to be divided before the sale is finalized.
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1.

## Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster. If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.

In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.

In the case of each non-insurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For non-insurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

### Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting of program crops and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Bob's Corner

**Corn planting time is here!!**

**If you have not signed up for the 2009 DCP program, please come in and do so before you get too busy in the field. The ACRE program is to be finalized soon and you will have the opportunity to switch over, if you decide to, up until August 14, 2009. Even if you switch, you will have to sign up in the DCP first, if you want an advance payment.**

**As soon as you get all of your crops planted, be sure to stop by and report the planted acres.**

**Bob Caldwell**

United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
Andrew County  
105 Hwy 71 West  
Savannah, MO 64485

Official Business



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## Dates to Remember

**May 18**

*Last date for 2008 NAP and Crop  
Insurance buy-in*

**May 25**

*USDA Offices Closed  
For Memorial Day*

**June 1**

*Last date to Request CCC  
Loan on 2008 Corn and Soybeans*

**June 30**

*Last Date To Report Wheat  
And other Small Grains*

**August 14**

*DCP & ACRE Sign-up  
Deadline*

**Ongoing**

- ◆ Continuous CRP
- ◆ Update Farm Changes.
- ◆ Farm Facility Loans.
- ◆ Monitor Stored Grain Condition

## Direct and Guaranteed Loans

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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Did you need more storage capability for your farming operation? Do you have obsolete, unusable bins? Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available from FSA for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities. FSFL loans approved in April will have a **2.50%** interest rate for the seven year loan.

## NASS Statistical Survey

*Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?*

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural

Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments also screened for farm operators.

*Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys? Because...* Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation. Regularly updating the information helps ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.