



# Farm Service Agency

**July 2008**

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## Bates County News

Office hours 7:45-4:30 Monday- Friday  
Committee meets 2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday each month

### Farm Bill Sign-Up June 25 –Sept. 30 2008

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through September 30, 2008. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner or owners are eligible as a Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm Owner – if the owner is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by Husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. (A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities. Limited Resource farmer for Bates County is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$100,000 and has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$19,350 in the previous 2 yrs.)

Producers may request **22% advance DCP direct payments** for 2008 beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conservation use, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, file an acreage report and if participating in ACRE, beginning in 2009, a production report.

The 08-12 crop base acres and farm payment yields in our area will remain the same. Direct Payments and price protection are only slightly less. The 2008 Farm Bill runs through 2012. Because the Bill was so late getting passed 2008 rules will be essentially the same as last year except as noted above. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed. When FSA procedures are finalized we will release newsletters this fall detailing the 2009-2012 regulations. Preliminary 2009-12 rules & current regulations can be viewed on our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for each program – DCP, CRP etc.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

August 1 is the deadline for farmers to nominate themselves or eligible peers as candidates for election to the FSA County Committee. It is important for all agricultural producers to be represented especially minority and beginning farmers. Committee persons play a vital role by helping local producers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. Nominees this year need to reside in area 3 (east 1/3 of county). Nomination forms are available from your local USDA Service Center. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and must be returned by Dec. 1. Newly elected members take office Jan. 1, 2009

## **2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended for all crops to August 15th.**

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the deadline for 2008 only. Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP or apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Producers need to report all cropland on the farm including wheat, all planted spring crops, prevented planting, and failed acres, CRP, pecans, hay and pasture by August 15th. You will need to **bring your planting dates with you**. Acreage reported after the Aug 15 deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) has also extended the date for insured producers to file their insured acreage reports to Aug 15 but encourages producers to file reports at their earliest opportunity so claims can be worked. When reporting to RMA & FSA producers should identify any land coming into production that has not been cropped in the last 3 years to insure you meet sobduster requirements. (Land in CRP is considered cropped)

**Failed & Prevented Planting Acres:** Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available as it has in past years. Currently Crop Disaster benefits through FSA are only available to producers who are insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) or have Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA on uninsurable crops.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Also a Notice of Loss Application must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

It is important that producers file a Notice of Loss Application to report crop losses before the disposition of the crop and within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent.

**REMINDER:** Reported planted acreage and prevented planted & failed acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. **When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may be considered ineligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits.** Producers may want to report your PP acres to your crop insurance agent first as RMA eligible PP acres for payment may be different than allowed PP acres for FSA (FSA max PP ac is max ac planted in any one of last 4 years)

### **Some CRP Acres released for Haying or Grazing under critical feed use provisions.**

USDA has authorized certain acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be eligible for haying and grazing beginning **July 16, 2008**. CRP participants must get approval from FSA before haying or grazing CRP acres. This release is not affected by prior years managed haying and grazing release rules.

CRP participants can use their own acreage for haying or grazing or lease the privilege to other producers with no restrictions on price. Participants will be required to pay a \$75 administrative fee per contract and will not be assessed any per acre payment reduction from their annual rental payments.

**Sept. 30** is the final date to request haying or grazing and all livestock must also be removed by Nov. 10, 2008.

**Haying** is limited to 50 percent of each eligible field. You cannot hay and graze the same field. Only one cutting is permitted. **If grazing**, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed if no more than 75% of the normal stocking rate, as determined by NRCS, is used.

If 50% of a field is used under critical feed use the balance cannot be hayed or grazed under the normal CRP haying and grazing provisions.

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is **not** eligible to hay or graze including wetlands, buffers, filter strips & CP25 wildlife warm season grass/forb mixes, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body is ineligible to be hayed or grazed.

### **Sign-up for 2005 – 2007 Crop Losses & Quality Loss Program**

Eligible producers who experienced crop losses from 2005 through 2007 can still apply to receive disaster assistance with FSA's Crop Disaster Program (CDP) but a deadline should be announced soon. You can select only one year for all crop losses.

Beginning June 23<sup>rd</sup> these crops are also eligible for a quality loss payment on crops that suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the minimum economic loss. Quality loss eligibility is figured by the load as long as the damage was caused by an eligible disaster condition.

Producers must have had crop insurance or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage to be eligible. Quality loss participants will be required to provide total actual production evidence for all harvested production per unit, including all production without quality problems. The actual production evidence will need to show price, quantity, and quality factors with verifiable production evidence showing the grading factors which attributed to the poor quality must be submitted. The quality loss program applies only to production harvested as grain.

More disaster information is at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

### **FSA FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

**Farm Loans:** The FSA office has both direct & guaranteed loans available to assist family farmers' credit needs. These programs are available to those who are unable to obtain financing through the normal lenders in the area. Loans can be made as operating loans for annual lines of credit, operating loans for chattels (livestock & equipment), farm real estate loans and Emergency Loans for physical & production losses when a disaster has been declared. Producers having difficulty in obtaining conventional credit should inquire about the various programs available.

EM Loan Designations – We have had several active EM Designations for making low interest emergency loans available to farm operators provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have eight months from the date of the designation to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment availability.

**Youth Loans:** Rural Youth ages 10-20 may be eligible for loans to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects such as livestock and crop production, etc. These projects must be in connection with FFA, 4-H or other similar organizations and be part of an organized and supervised plan of work. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are still available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

### **Banking Changes?**

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.

**Bates County FSA Office  
625 W Nursery  
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<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
July 18	Final date to signup in the LCP & LIP livestock assistance programs.
August 1	Final date to request Farm Reconstitutions for current year,
August 1	Final date to submit COC nominations
August 15	Final date to report all crops. (grains, grass, CRP and NAP crops) for 2008
September 30	Final date to request release of CRP to Hay or Graze
September 30	Deadline to signup in 2008 DCP farm program
September 1	Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
On Going	CRP , CREP & SAFE continuous signups.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.