



June 2009

# Buchanan County News

## **Buchanan County USDA Service Center**

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

## **Office Hours**

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

## **County Committee**

Gayle Delaney  
Travis Klein  
Doug Shepherd

## **Program Technicians**

Debbie Johnson  
Beck Kelly  
Gina Smith

## **Field Assistant**

Nate Parry

## **Farm Loan Manager**

Charlotte Holeman

## **County Director**

Craig Everly

## **Crop Reporting**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains is June 30, and July 31 for all other crops and CRP acreages

## **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. The final planting date for corn is June 5th and the final planting date for soybeans and grain sorghum is June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the individual crop's final planting date because of natural disaster conditions, not a management decision.

## **DCP & ACRE Signup**

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Direct payments for the 2009 crop year are approximately 98% of the 2008 program year.

If one chooses to enroll a farm in the ACRE program they will forgo 20% of the farm's Direct payments. Once a farm has been approved for the ACRE program, it shall stay in the ACRE program for the duration of this farm bill which lasts until 2012. More information may be derived at an FSA website for your particular farm by accessing an ACRE calculator at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/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.

## ***Sodbuster, Swampbuster***

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting work in your fields.

## ***Tobacco Quota Buyout***

Any transfers of Tobacco Transition Program contracts to family members needs to be reported to this office as soon as possible when the successor is known. The process to change the entity and /or shares on a contract takes some time.

## ***County Committee Elections***

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. This year for Buchanan County LAA 1 is open for election. LAA 1 is approximately the area of the county northeast of Highway 169.

## ***Nominations***

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at this county office.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

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

- 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

## ***Record Changes***

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.

## ***Farm Reconstitutions***

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the some methods used to distribute crop bases when doing a farm recon:

### **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. This is simply a division of crop bases to each resulting tract that is agreed upon by buyer and seller. A memorandum of understanding must be signed by each party agreeing to the proposed base distribution.

### **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.

## ***Selling Land?***

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please consider discussing possible program consequences with the county office staff before selling any land.

## ***Beginning Farmers and Ranchers***

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size; and

**Note:** All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least three years.

## ***Farm Storage Facility Loans***

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

### ***Power of Attorney***

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. Spouses may sign for each other automatically without executing a power of attorney document.

### **Dates To Remember**

<a href="#"><u>June 30</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Final date to report small grains</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>July 3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Office closed in observance of Fourth of July</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>July 31</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Final date to report spring seeded crops and CRP</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>August 1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Final date to request recon-stitutions for farms</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>August 3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Final date to submit nomi-nating petitions for County Committee election</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>August 14</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Final date to enroll in the DCP and ACRE programs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ongoing</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Farm Facility Loan Program</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ongoing</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Continuous CRP</u></a>

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