



Dallas County News

June 2009

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

Dallas County
USDA Service Center

Dallas County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Byron Duff
Jack Dill
Keith Whipple
Betty McCarthy

County Committee
meets second Tuesday
of each month

Staff
Karen Stillings CED
Sue Hendrich, PT



**2009
Rainfall Data
as recorded
at the county
Office**

Month Inches

Jan	1.00
Feb	1.89
March	3.43
April	3.93
May	7.93
June	4.16 to date



For County Committee election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's for election purposes. These LAA's are divided up by voting townships within the county. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. An election is held each year in one LAA to elect a representative from that area to serve on the County Committee. Members may serve 3 three years terms.

Nominations

LAA-3 will be holding election this year. This includes townships of Wilson, Washington, Jackson and Sheridan.

Jack Dill currently represents this LAA and his 3rd term of service will expire this year.

County Committee (COC) members play a vital role in the operation of the county office. Each COC delivers national farm programs to the county level. They make decisions on farm program applications, provide knowledge of farming practices and conditions in the county, and make recommendations related to natural disaster type events.

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 the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

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.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA-2 beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age who have a farming interest as an individual, authorized representative of an entity, or spouses when property is jointly owned are eligible to vote. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

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.

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.

Signup in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) option is also available through August 14, 2009.

The **ACRE** program is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. This program allows producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5 year state Olympic average yield and the 2 year national average price.

Producers electing to participate in the ACRE program will forego counter-cyclical payments; accept a 20% reduction of the direct payments under the DCP program; and accept a 30% reduction in commodity loan rates. Eligible commodities for

ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was implemented to allow producers an option in lieu of counter-cyclical payments. (Counter-cyclical payments are normally paid to producers signed up in the DCP program when market prices drop below program target prices.) Producers may elect and enroll for the 2009 year in ACRE through August 14, 2009.

Changes in Payment Limitations

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years will now be necessary due to changes in the Farm Bill.

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs will need to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502. **Another change for 2009, all persons must make a contribution in an entity.** All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active-

- personal labor,
- personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Acreage 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, 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, including forage and seed.***

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported by final reporting date, or 15 days before harvest.

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

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 normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions, not a management decision.

Missouri FSA Changes NAP Sales Closing Dates for Strawberries & Blueberries

Missouri announced the deadline to purchase coverage under FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has changed for strawberries and blueberries effective for the 2010 and subsequent crop years.

The sales closing date for blueberries and strawberries was previously March 15 of the year prior to the growing season. For strawberries, the new closing date for Missouri will be September 30 and for blueberries the new date is November 20. For coverage for the 2010 crop year, producers must purchase a NAP policy by September 30, 2009, or November 20, 2009, respectively.

The NAP program allows producers to have protection on crops in which catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP coverage can provide financial assistance in cases where there is a crop loss or prevented planting due to a natural disaster. To apply for coverage, producers must complete a form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. There are special provisions for limited resource producers for a waiver of fees. To apply for NAP coverage or to learn more about the program, visit your local FSA county office. Information is also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and 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.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
- Financing statement
- UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Funding Available for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

The Farm Service Agency can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants *do not* receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet *all* requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations;
- Have sufficient education, experience and/or training that indicates the managerial ability to assure reasonable prospects of success;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations

Contact the local Farm Service Agency county office or USDA Service Center staff for more information.



Milk Income Loss Contract Program Payment Rates

Due to continued low milk prices received by dairy farmers the following are the rates that are applicable thus far in the '09 program year under the MILC program:

- October '08 – January '09- no payment
- February - \$1.51352/cwt.
- March - \$2.00561/cwt
- April - \$1.58628/cwt.
- May - \$1.2240/cwt.
- June - \$1.6245/cwt.

The months of February, March and April final payment rate was adjusted for feed costs; May and June feed costs have not been released yet for calculation, therefore payment rates could be some higher in those months.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The 2008 Farm Bill has authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) which covers livestock death losses a producer suffers due to a natural disaster. Documentation of such loss will be required and the loss shall be above normal mortality rates. These rates have not been determined at this time. For additional information on this program, please contact your FSA office.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

Dates to Remember	
June 30	Small Grains crop acreage reporting deadline
July 31	All other crops acreage including hay and seed reporting deadline
August 14	ACRE sign-up deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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