



DeKalb County News

April 2009

DeKalb County USDA Service Center

DeKalb County FSA
1101 S. Polk
Maysville, MO. 64469
816-449-2112 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Ronald Carrel, Chair
John Burton, Vice-Chair
Lecil Andrews, Member
Ruth Owen, Advisor

County Committee
meets First Friday of
Month at 9:30 a.m.

Staff
Eugene Keats, CED
Kristy L. Gray, PT
Darlene Fisher, PT
Cindy Barker, PT
Robert Barton, Field
Daniel White, Field

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Farm Loan
Officer
Tuesday mornings, 10:00
a.m. to Noon



USDA RESPONDS TO PRODUCER CONCERNS BY EXTENDING SIGN-UP DATE FOR DCP AND 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 the 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 will begin **April 27**. 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>

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. ACRE sign-up dates will be the same as the DCP signup, extending through August 14.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office. A public meeting is planned for the first part of June after more details of the ACRE program are known

Stimulus Funding for FLP Loans

As part of the recently approved economic stimulus package, FSA's Farm Loan Programs (FLP) is scheduled to receive an extra \$173 million in funding for the direct operating loan (OL) program. Many states have a current backlog of approved OL loans waiting for funding. As of February 23, the backlog stood at 1,039 loans valued at more than \$72 million. Producers' financial needs have increased significantly with the elevated costs of production inputs and the downturn in the agricultural economy. This growing need, coupled with FLP's successful marketing efforts, has generated increased demand for FSA OL loans as well as farm ownership loans.



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 noninsurable 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 noninsurable 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.

Acresage Reporting

Acresage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acresage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acresage and prevented planting acresage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acresage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acresage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acresage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops.

Acresage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acresage being reported.

NAP Information: Producers with NAP insurance may obtain the new basic provisions, CCC-47BP and NAP Fact Sheet from the FSA webpage at www.fsa.gov or from their local county FSA office.

Filing of Loss/Prevented Planting

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acresage 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.



The filing must take place 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. Final planting dates are June 5 for corn and June 20 for soybeans. Failed acreages must be filed by the same final reporting dates as small grains and coarse grains, June 30, and July 31, respectively. Prevented planted acreage will no longer be limited to the maximum number of acres of the specific crop planted or prevented from being planted effective with the 2009 crop year.

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 final.

·**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 must be filed by August 1 for farms subject to DCP.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program 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 average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov .

Request Soybean Referendum to determine if the Soybean Checkoff Program implemented in 1991 should be continued. **May 4, 2009 through May 29, 2009** Contact the FSA Office to sign a request.



CRP Notes



Producers are reminded that the non-disturbance period for ground nesting birds begins May 1 and extends through July 15. This means that no activity can be conducted on CRP including mowing, weed control, and management practices. If there is a severe noxious weed problem in the field, producers can request approval from the county committee to spot treat. As of July 16, activity can resume such as managed haying and grazing. Certain CRP acreages can be hayed or grazed every third year by making a request and paying the standard 25% of the rental rate fee. Haying and grazing activity can continue until September 30. If you participated in the Critical Use Feed Program in 2008, you are restricted from haying or grazing any acreage in that field or at a minimum twice the acreage actually hayed or grazed for the standard three year period.



Management practices that can begin on July 16 are disking, burning warm season grass, and spraying warm season grass.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2009

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.25%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.50%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

Dates to Remember

May 4	Opening of period to request soybean referendum
May 13	Farm Storage Facility Loan comment period ends (http://public.geo-marine.com)
May 18	2008 NAP & Crop Insurance Buy-in Deadline
May 29	Close of soybean referendum request period
June 30	Final date to report small grain acreage; all other crops July 31
August 14	ACRE sign-up deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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