



Gentry/Worth County FSA NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Gentry County FSA Office

512 E Hwy 136
Albany, MO 64402
660-726-5525
Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mike Sager
David Waltemath
Donnie Stevens
Nancy Findley

Office Staff

Mary Ann Gibson, PT
Kathy Ward, PT
Brenda Walker, PT
Barbara Ratliff, PT

Worth County FSA Office

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660-564-3341
Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

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Bernard Runde
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Veronica Craven, PT
Ann Gilland, PT

County Executive Director

Mark Cadle

Farm Loan Program Manager

Charles Meissen

Fieldmen

Bill Grabb

To Gentry and Worth County Producers,

Spring is a very busy time for all agricultural producers and it is a very busy time for us at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as well. We know that your time is a valuable commodity, especially this time of year, so that when you are in the office we will do our best to have you on your way as quickly as possible. You can help us serve you better by giving us a quick call, telling us what you need, when you will be here, and we will try to have the items ready when you arrive.

Some items that you need to keep in mind include the signup deadline for the annual farm program or DCP. June 1, 2010 is the final date to enroll. There are no late-file provisions, so we must have all signatures on the contract no later than close of business on June 1, 2010. Don't wait to the last day to enroll! See the article later in the newsletter concerning **FINAL DEADLINE**. Another thing to consider is the decision to stay with DCP or to enroll in the optional Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The 2008 Farm Bill gave producers on eligible farms the option to keep their farms enrolled in the annual farm program under the old DCP program or participate in the ACRE Program. ACRE is designed to provide revenue support to farmers as an alternative to the price supports under DCP. Through the ACRE program, a payment will be made when state revenue is less than the state guarantee and when a farm's revenue is less than the farm guarantee.

Some agricultural economists are saying payments may be made under the ACRE program in 2009 and 2010. How large will those payments be? What are the differences between staying with DCP and enrolling in ACRE? How do you decide whether or not to enroll in the ACRE program? See the article entitled **The ACRE Program** for help in making this decision. For 2010 this decision must be made by June 1, 2010.

Also keep in mind crop reporting deadlines. Late filing fees are expensive and can be avoided by timely filing an acreage report. Both DCP and CRP participants are required to report acreages to maintain their eligibility to receive payments. Small grains, including wheat and oats must be reported by June 30, 2010 and all other crops, including forage crops and CRP acreage must be reported by August 2, 2010. Remember that crop insurance may have different reporting deadlines than FSA so if you have crop insurance you may want to report your acreages in advance of the deadlines. See the article on **Acreage Reporting** for complete details. Failed or damaged crop acres or prevented planting acres must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days from the date the damage occurred or became apparent. Read the article on **Prevented, Damaged, or Failed Acres** later in the newsletter for more information.

We are now in the non-disturbance period for CRP acreage. To protect the cover for ground nesting birds no maintenance can be performed on CRP acreage from May 1 through July 15 each year without FSA County Committee approval. An article is included in the newsletter with more information on **CRP maintenance and Early Land Preparation** for acreage expiring this fall. And while we're on the subject of CRP, we are anticipating a general signup for CRP in early summer. Watch future newsletters for more details when they are known.

Another program receiving a substantial amount of interest from local producers at this time is our loan program for the construction of grain bins and hay storage buildings. We offer excellent interest rates and favorable repayment terms. If you have an interest in this loan program contact your local office for complete details.

As always if you have any questions concerning any FSA program contact your local FSA office. Have a safe and productive planting season, Mark Cadle, CED

FINAL DEADLINE—June 1, 2010

June 1, 2010 will be your last opportunity to enroll in this year's annual farm program known as the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and/or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. **Late-filed applications cannot be approved.** Producers eligible for DCP are also eligible to enroll into the ACRE program as an alternative to the counter-cyclical portion of DCP. The enrollment period for ACRE for 2010 ends June 1, 2010 as well. Farms that previously enrolled in the DCP program for 2010 can be changed to participate in the ACRE program, but this must be done by June 1, 2010. Check with the office for more information concerning the DCP or ACRE programs.

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office Committees (COC) is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. FSA committee persons are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The farmers who serve on the Gentry and Worth County Committees help with the decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs on a local level in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. This is a great opportunity to serve your fellow producer, plus learn how government farm programs work and what it takes to get them implemented.

The nomination period for County Committee members begins June 15th. In addition to nominating themselves, eligible candidates may be nominated by organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers, or by any producer whose records are administered in the same County Committee jurisdiction. You may request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain one online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A agreeing to serve if elected. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be post-marked or received in your local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 2, 2010.

Prevented, Damaged, or Failed Acres??

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are required to report the acreage to FSA. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. Producers need to contact the FSA office within 15 days from the date damage occurred or is apparent.

At the office, producers will file any needed acreage report and also a Notice of Loss form (FSA-576). Producers filing prevented planting, will establish that all cropland they expected to plant but that was prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster causing the prevented planting rather than a management decision of the producer. The intention to plant a crop will need to be documented. Documentation might include land preparation measures taken, orders for purchase of seed, delivery of seed and fertilizer, or financing documents.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company are also required to contact their insurance agent. Crops not covered with private insurance should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop for eligibility for various programs. For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact your local office.

Farm Reconstitutions

In FSA program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm number. When changes in ownership or the operation of the farm 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 when doing a farm recon.

- **Estate Method:** The division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.
- **Designation by 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.
- **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.

Recons must be requested by August 1, or by June 1 if the new farm is to be enrolled in DCP. In this case the parent farm would not have to be enrolled in DCP by June 1, but the producer would have 30 days after notification to enroll the resulting farm. If the recon request is received after June 1 but by August 1, all parent farms must have been enrolled in DCP by June 1 in order for the resulting farm to be enrolled for 2010.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded and then re-issued under the new farm number.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are still available through May 31, 2010 for 2009 crop corn and soybeans. Loans are nine months in duration and are non-recourse meaning the collateral can be forfeited in settlement of the loan in times of low grain prices. Loan rates for 2009 crops are: Corn -- \$1.87; Soybeans -- \$4.93 in Gentry County and \$1.83 for corn and \$4.89 for soybeans in Worth County. Lien waivers can now be obtained prior to making application for the loan causing less time to be needed to process the loan. Marketing loans are an excellent marketing alternative for many producers and features an extremely low interest rate for May at 1.500%.

Changes to CRP Maintenance

CRP contracts that became effective October 1, 2003 require Mid-Contract Management Practices that must be performed according to the CRP Conservation Plan developed at the time the acreage was enrolled in CRP. There have been some changes in the regulations applicable to the management practices that producers have to perform on these contracts, if the producer elects to select the new regulations. Under the new regulations the mid-contract management practices will now only have to be performed once for some contracts. Newly established seedings can have a management cycle completed in years 3-6. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract years 3-6. Established seedings enrolled or re-enrolled can have the practices performed in years 1-4. All of the acreage must be treated in that time period. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract years 1-4. Mowing is now allowed in

conjunction with strip disking or chemical application and receive 50% cost share based on a mowing rate of \$16.00 per acre. If strip disking as a MCM the dates have changed to July 16 to March 31. Spraying cool season grass can be done from October 1 to November 30 and then again from March 15 to April 30. Participants can change to the new policy by signing a modification to their conservation plan. Mowing of up to ½ of each field from July 16th to August 15 can be done on most CRP contracts that were enrolled before October 1, 2003. Contact your local FSA office for complete details concerning your CRP maintenance responsibilities.

CRP EARLY LAND PREPARATION

Producers having contracts that expire September 30, 2010, may want to prepare land for a fall seeded crop using tillage or a chemical burn down. This can be allowed after July 1 with County Committee approval. Producers who want to prepare land early must file a request by filing a CRP-1G before starting work.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage 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. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and a July 31st deadline on all other crops. **File your acreage report with FSA first; then file the exact same acreages with your crop insurance company.** This will eliminate problems later.

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Office Closed – Memorial Day
June 1	DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline
June 1	Last Day to Obtain Marketing Assistance Loans on 2009 Corn and Soybeans
June 30	Deadline to report Small Grains
August 2	Deadline to report Crop Acreage & CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
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FARM SERVICE AGENCY
GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE**
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The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, the 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. The enrollment date for 2010 ACRE is June 1, 2010. ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. In exchange for these revenue guarantees, producers agree to forgo counter-cyclical payments, agree to a 20-percent reduction in direct their payments under DCP and also agree to a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For help in deciding on the right program for your farm go to USDA web page at www.usda.gov for a link to the ACRE calculator. Information needed for the benchmark prices and yields needed for the calculator may be found at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=dccp&topic=landing> Remember that the scenario for each farm is different and no one answer can what is best for your individual farm or farms without some study and some decisions concerning where you feel crop prices and yields are headed. Contact the office and we will be glad to offer any information we can to help you make your decision. Remember that your decision must be made in enough time that all owners and operators on a farm have time to sign the acre election form and a 2010 contract before the June 1, 2010 deadline.

Reasonable Accommodations - 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 at 660-726-5525 in Albany or 660-564-3341 in Grant City and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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