



# HOLT COUNTY NEWS

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

May 2009

## Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

### Holt County FSA

118 W Davis Street  
Mound City, Mo 64470  
660-442-3134 (phone)  
660-442-5376 (fax)

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Karl Noellsch  
Kirby Rosier  
Karen Ingram

### County Executive Director

Jackie J VanGundy

### Office Staff

Kami Hubach, PT  
Kim Meyer, PT  
Wendy Tubbs, PT  
Marcie Geib, temp

### Fieldmen

Mark Buntz, FA  
Stan Seitz, FA

### Farm Loan

Bob Dreyer, FLM  
Roger Uptergrove, FLO  
Tuesday mornings

### District Director

Jim Nance

USDA has announced sign up for the new ACRE program. The ACRE program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety. Many producers are uncertain of what ACRE is all about, not to mention whether or not it is a good option for their operation. ACRE works differently than programs authorized by previous farm bills. For one thing, FSA cannot tell you what your payment will be. The calculations can appear daunting and are contingent upon six variables; three of which will not be known until after you have made your election decision. And if your decision is to participate in ACRE, you live with it through the 2012 program year. This includes a 20 percent reduction in your direct payments, a 30 percent reduction in marketing loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

So what about that ACRE program? Why would anyone give up benefits in the other programs? ACRE provides revenue protection when national average prices and/or state and farm yields cause revenue to fall below established benchmarks. It is possible that no payments will be issued to ACRE participants. However, it is also possible that ACRE payments will be issued, and those payments could exceed the reductions.

ACRE payments are made when both state-and farm-level triggers are met. 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 choice to participate in ACRE is one that **only** you can make, and it is important to make an informed decision. The Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) has a calculator available for download on their website, [fapri.missouri.edu](http://fapri.missouri.edu). In addition to FAPRI, other universities and organizations also have calculators available.

ACRE signup is now available at FSA county offices. The deadline for BOTH the 2009 ACRE election/enrollment and the 2009 DCP sign-up is **August 14, 2009**. If you have already enrolled in DCP for 2009, you may still elect and enroll in ACRE for 2009. Or if you have not decided about ACRE, you can signup for DCP now, receive the 22 percent advance on your direct payment, and still elect and enroll in ACRE, prior to August 14. USDA has announced there will not be a late filing period for either program after August 14, 2009.

## CRP Contract Extensions

USDA has announced that certain CRP contracts expiring in September 2009 will be eligible for three to five year extensions. Participants eligible for the extensions will be notified of the opportunity by letter. Those with contracts expiring in September 2009 that are not eligible for the extension will receive written confirmation of their contract's expiration.

USDA will offer extensions to those contracts with environmental benefit index (EBI) ranking in the top 30 percent. Of 3.9 million acres scheduled to expire this fall, 1.5 million acres will be offered Contract extensions. A general CRP signup is **not** scheduled in 2009.

If you receive notification of an offer to extend your CRP contract, please contact your FSA office for Details.



## 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 30<sup>th</sup>** deadline on small grains and a **July 31<sup>st</sup>** deadline on all other crops.

### CRP Mid Contract Management Practices.

These management practices are mandatory and there are no waivers or options to void the requirement to complete them. You must report completion of the practice to the FSA office.



## Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate agriculture-related income-producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H



Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

### Soybean Request for Referendum

The USDA will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research order. The Secretary of Agriculture is required to conduct a "Request for Referendum" (RfR) every 5 years after the initial referendum. The last RfR was in 2004 and soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the soybean checkoff program are invited to participate. The RfR will be conducted in the FSA Office from May 4 to May 29 and producers must provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on them during the period 1-1-07 thru 12-31-08.

## 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 than 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Direct and Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## County Committee Election

June 15 is the beginning of the nomination period for the FSA County Committee (COC) election. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign a nomination form FSA-669A. This form is available at USDA Service Centers or online at [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov). For 2009, nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 3, 2009**.

Committees are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on COC's help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their county. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Local Administrative Area 1, which is comprised of Lincoln, Liberty, Clay & Union townships, is up for election this year. Kirby Rosier is currently representing this area.

## New Organics Initiative

The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production.

This Program will be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Applications will be accepted under this initiative between **May 11 and May 29**. Applications will be ranked at that time. For more information about the initiative, please contact NRCS or visit the website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip).

## Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

## 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 finalized.**
- **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 should be filed by August 1.

## 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 the 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

## Timely Filing of Loss

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

## Farm Loan

Due to budget constraints, the Farm Loan Staff will not be authorized to travel to Holt County every week.

Please contact our office or the Farm Loan staff in Atchison County to schedule a time to meet with them.

Holt: 442-3134  
Atchison: 744-5328

## Farm Storage Facility

**Loan** comment period ends May 13. <https://public.geo-marine.com>

United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
Holt County  
118 W Davis Street.  
Mound City, MO 64470

Official Business



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## Dates to Remember

**May 4 through 29**

*Soybean Request for Referendum*

**May 11 through 29**

Organic Initiative sign up

**May 18**

*Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP  
& Crop Insurance Buy-in*

**May 25**

*Office Closed for Memorial Day*

**June 1**

Deadline to apply for 2008 Corn or  
Soybean loan

**June 30**

Report wheat & small grains

**July 3**

Office Closed Independence Day

**July 31**

Report all spring planted crops &  
CRP

**August 1**

COC Election Nominations Due

**August 14**

DCP & ACRE deadline

**Ongoing**

- ◆ Continuous CRP
- ◆ Update Farm Changes.
- ◆ Farm Facility Loans
- ◆ Monitor Stored Grain Condition

## NASS Statistical Survey

*Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?*

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a sample list of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments are also screened for farm operators.

*Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys? Because...* Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation. Regularly updating the information helps ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.

## It's A Girl!

Wendy & Kyle Tubbs were blessed by the birth of a baby girl April 28th at 8:01 P.M.

Her name is Emily Elaine  
and she weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and is 21 inches long.

Mom and baby are both doing great.

Emily is welcomed home by three brothers,  
Brendan, Trevor and Connor.

CONGRATULATIONS