



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

HOLT COUNTY NEWS



APRIL / MAY 2010

"Farm Pitch"

Holt County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee

Karl Noellsch
Karen Ingram
Dean Johnson

CED

Jackie J VanGundy

Office Staff

Kami Hubach, PT
Kimberly Meyer, PT
Wendy Tubbs, PT
Marci Geib, temp

Fieldmen

Mark Buntz
Stan Seitz

Farm Loan

Bob Dreyer, FLM
Roger Uptergrove, FLO
(Tuesday mornings)

District Director

Jim Nance



FINAL DEADLINE—June 1, 2010

June 1, 2010 will be your last opportunity to enroll in this year's Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. **Late filed applications will not be available.**

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 began last fall. Check with the office for more information.

DCP Sign-Up Now!

- ◆ **Farm producers must sign a new DCP/ACRE contract (CCC-509) each year on every participating farm they own or operate prior to receiving any payment.**
- ◆ **Advanced payments are available.**

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 feasible to plant but prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Intentions to plant a crop will need to be provided. These intentions might include disking the land, 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.

Acreage Reports

Producers are reminded that as you finish 2010 spring planting, to report your acres with planting dates to the office. Both DCP and CRP participants are required to report all acreages to maintain eligibility and receive payments.

SURE Sign Up Continues

April Select Interest Rates

- Farm Operating-Direct **2.875%**
- Farm Ownership-Direct **5.0%**
- Farm Ownership-Direct Down Payment
or Beginning Farmer- **1.500%**
- Emergency Loans **varies**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans
 - *7-year term **3.150%**
 - *10-year term **3.625%**
 - *12-year term **4.000%**
- Commodity Grain Loans **1.375%**

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous “ad-hoc” crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, the SURE program is a **“Total Farm”** disaster program. This revenue based program compares crops expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. Entire farming operation refers to **ALL** farms and **ALL** interests, in **ALL** counties. In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

Producers are reminded that when they have an address change to please contact FSA to update your information

Payment Limitations and Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitations, once completed by the applicant, are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the participant’s responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitations.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, trusts and estates are required to provide the names, addresses and tax identification numbers of their members. Benefits earned in programs subject to the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill are directly attributed through entities to its members. Annual payment limitations for certain USDA programs are outlined below.

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Limit</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Limit</u> |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Direct | \$40,000* | MAL, Market Gains & LDP’s | None |
| Counter Cyclical | \$65,000 | CRP Annual Rental | \$50,000 |
| ACRE | \$65,000 | SURE, LFP, LIP, ELAP | \$100,000 |
| EQIP | \$300,000 | NAP | \$100,000 |

*The Direct Payment Limitation is adjusted if you participate in ACRE. The Direct Limitation is reduced by 20% of the Direct Payment for your ACRE farm(s). You ACRE limitation increases by the same amount.

Landowner Designation

If you are a landowner and you plan to sell a portion of your land, this provision may apply to you. The Designation by Landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by both the buyer and seller.



The land must be owned for 3-years to qualify for this option. This option allows both the seller and buyer the opportunity to choose how the base acres associated to the farm are divided and both the seller and buyer of the land sign to the agreement (Form FSA-155), unless a memorandum of understanding is provided. This memorandum must also be signed by both parties outlining how base acres are to be distributed.

Anytime land is sold, producers should report the sale to the county office timely. Failure to report sales could result in program payment refunds or penalties on participating program farms.

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. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

The nomination period for county committee members begins June 15th. 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 the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 2, 2010.

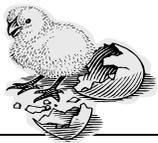


Most operators have signed the contract for the 2010 annual DCP program. However, there are several owners who still have not been in to sign. The farm will not be enrolled in the program if we do not have all signatures by the June 1 deadline. We have been informed that late filed applications will not be available as in the past.

Producers are reminded that the new Adjusted Gross Income form must be submitted to IRS by every producer earning benefits in 2009/2010. It is the producer's responsibility to submit the applicable form to IRS. Failure to do so will result in a noncompliance determination for AGI and the loss of all USDA benefits.

ACRE Program Production Needed by July 31st

Producers who are enrolled in the ACRE program are reminded that they must submit production for the 2004-2008 base period to establish benchmark yields or accept their respective county average "plug" yields for that timeframe or applicable years. Actual production figures must also be submitted by the July 31st deadline for 2009 in order to maintain program eligibility. Plug yields cannot be utilized for a farm in place of actual production once enrolled in the program. A letter with the forms needed have been mailed to producers who have not certified production.



Primary Nesting Season—May 1st through July 15th

NO CRP Maintenance During These Dates

CRP General Sign-Up Expected

FSA anticipates a Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-Up in 2010. Producers are reminded that land **must** be physically capable of being cropped to be offered for the CRP sign-up.

Producers whose contracts will expire September 30, 2010, may want to prepare land for a fall seeded crop by tillage. This is allowed after July 1, or you can also apply chemical burndown for a spring planted crop. Remember that if the cover is damaged in any way, the land will not be eligible for enrollment in this general sign-up. Producers who want to prepare land early must file a request on a CRP 1G before starting work.

RMA has recently revised the final planting dates. Generally, these revisions moved the final planting date up. Producers should contact their agent, as the dates may vary from county to county. For Holt County the final planting date for Corn is May 25 and June 15 for Soybeans.

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

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Dates to Remember

May 31

Office Closed Memorial Day

June 1

Final date for corn & bean loans

June 1

DCP/ACRE Sign Up Ends

June 30

Final Day To Report Wheat, Barley,
And Other Small Grain Acres

July 4

Office Closed
Independence Day

July 31

Final Day To Report All Spring
Planted Crops, Hay, Pasture, And
CRP Acres

July 31

Final Day To Provide Production
Evidence For ACRE Farms

August 1

COC nomination forms due

Reminder:

Have You Mailed Your
Completed IRS/USDA Consent
Form?

Crop Reports Due by June 30 & July 31

County offices are currently taking 2010 crop reports with planting dates. Producers should also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time.

A complete acreage report on **all cropland** must be filed in order to receive program payments. The deadline for small grains is **June 30, 2010**.

The final reporting date on all cropland is **July 31, 2010**.

Reminders: Check planted acres, planting dates, and crop shares. Acreage and shares should accurately reflect the farming operation and be consistent with USDA Farm Programs, crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. Program benefits depend on shares being reported correctly. Producers should consider reporting at FSA prior to reporting to their crop insurance agent.



Conservation Compliance Penalties

It is critical for USDA program participants to follow their conservation plan. Failure to do so can result in a loss of USDA benefits and affect eligibility for future benefits.

The 2008 Farm Bill revised certain conservation compliance provisions, particularly financial penalties even when it has been determined that the participant acted in good-faith.

For example, if a violation of Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) provisions is determined, and good-faith relief is granted by the FSA County Committee, a payment reduction will still apply. This reduction will be \$1,000 at a minimum, or a maximum of \$10,000, depending on the severity of soil loss caused by the violation.

Additionally, county committees' good-faith determinations must now be reviewed and approved by FSA's State Executive Director, with the concurrence of NRCS's State Conservationist. Avoid this process all together by ensuring you are compliant with your conservation plan.



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