



**USDA
Service Center**

Wright County FSA

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County Committee

***Gale Kinser,
Chairperson***

***Evelyn Livermore-
Fisher, Vice-
Chairperson***

***Bonita Raney,
Member***

Program Technician

Sue Price

Ashley Martin

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

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

***County Executive
Director***

Clyde Connelly

District Director

James J. Kyle

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

USDA has announced sign up for the ACRE program. This program is an alternative to the traditional farm safety net. ACRE works differently than programs authorized by previous farm bills. For one thing, we cannot tell you what your payment will be. The calculations that are used to figure payments are contingent upon six variables, three of which will not be known until after you have made your decision. And, if you decided to participate in ACRE, you have to live with it through the 2012 program year. This includes a 20 percent reduction in your direct payments, and 30 percent reduction in marketing loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments. 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.

ACRE signup is now underway. 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. USDA has announced that there will not be a late filing period for either ACRE or DCP after August 14, 2009.

2009 FSA County Committee Elections

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, and producers can use it to nominate themselves or another eligible producer. 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. This years election will be in Local Administrative Area 1, which includes those farms lying west from highway 5 and TT highway west to the Webster County line. Gale Kinser is currently representing this area.

MILC Income Loss Payment Program

Because of low dairy prices across the country, dairy producers participation in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) programs are now receiving MILC payments. Wright County continues to be the number 1 dairy county in the State, and we are making the largest amount of MILC payments to area dairy producers. For the month of February the FSA office sent checks out in the amount of \$150,024. This amount increased to \$235,054 for the month of March. We will not know the payment rate for April until the last day of May.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP will compensate producers for livestock death losses in *excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather* that occurred on or after January 01, 2008 and before October 01, 2011. Producers who had livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following:

- * Rendering truck receipts or certificates
- * Veterinary records
- * Dairy Herd Improvement Records
- * Third party verification

The third party must certify in writing the name, address, and telephone number, the affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired hand or family member. Producers should take photos, keep veterinary records, disposal costs, and third-party verification. At this time, the forms and procedure for taking loss applications are not yet available at the county FSA office. Producers are encouraged to maintain records on all losses in order to be eligible when all requirements are known.

10 Acre Eligibility Rule Changed

The 2008 Farm Bill prohibited DCP base farms with 10 acres of less to participate until recently. Now, the new rules state that if your farm is owned 50 percent by a Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) individual, which includes Women, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian-Americans, African-American or Hispanic-American or a limited resource producer, you can now participate in the DCP program. An example of this may be a farm owned jointly by husband and wife. Don't forget the August 14 deadline to sign into the DCP Program.

Soybean Request For Referendum

The USDA is offering 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" every 5 years after the initial referendum. The last Referendum was in 2004, and soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the soybean check-off program are invited to participate. The Referendum began in the FSA Office on May 4th, and will continue through May 29th. Producers must provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment of them during the period January 1, 2007 thru December 31, 2008.

2009 Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The 2008 Farm Bill extended the enrollment authority for an additional 1.2 million acres for GRP. This is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland. Applications will be accepted May 18th through June 5th, 2009. 10, 15, and 20 year rental agreements and permanent easements will be available. The minimum acreage for GRP enrollment is 40 contiguous acres. Under this program participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices; produce hay, mow or harvest seed production (subject to certain restrictions). Landowners who offer and are approved for rental agreements will receive not more than 75% of the grazing value in an annual payment.

Acreage Reporting-----it's a Must!!!!

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, prevented planting acreage and CRP, 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 crops 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 deadline of small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops. Acreage 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 acreage being reported.

Crops reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group as 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. Neither the realtor nor the court house will notify us of these changes. It is up to you to let us know when you buy and sell property in order to allow us to keep our farm records correct.

Emergency Assistance for Live-stock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAAP provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, during the calendar year, that are not covered by the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

Livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish producers who have incurred 2008 and/or 2009 calendar year losses not covered by SURE, LIP, and LFP are advised to begin compiling their loss documentation, if interested in ELAP. Livestock, honey bees, or farm-raised fish producers must provide FSA with verifiable documentation for all losses for which compensation is wanted.

Honey bee producers who incur physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives because of colony collapse disorder must provide documentation and/or a certification that the loss of honey bees was because of colony collapse disorder from one or more of the following: registered entomologist, cooperative extension specialist, or a Land Grant University.

Farm-raised fish producers who incur physical losses of farm-raised fish because of adverse weather or other conditions must provide documentation of beginning inventory on the beginning date of the adverse weather event and the ending inventory.