



February 10, 2012

Farm Service Agency

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Mercer &
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*“dedicated to achieving
an economically and
environmentally sound
future for American
Agriculture”*



2012 DCP/ACRE - 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began Jan. 23rd and will end June 1, 2012. All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm. • Changes on the farm after June 1st **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as: ownership changes, producer changes, or a change in crop share arrangements. **Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012. In past years producers could receive 22% of their direct payment as an advance. Starting with 2012 DCP, participants will receive 100% of their direct payment in October with no advances available. Producers who participate in DCP may plant cropland in excess of the total base acreage on the farm to any commodity. However, producers are subject to certain restrictions on the planting of wild rice, fruits, and vegetables. For each commodity, the total direct payment for the 2012 crop year is determined by multiplying 85 percent of the farm’s base acreage times the farm’s direct payment yield times the direct payment rate. Fruits and vegetables (FAV) may be planted on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE and be considered an authorized planting when one of the following exceptions applies: FAV is double-cropped with a covered commodity in an established FAV double-cropping region, the farm has history of planting FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm, the producer has history of planting a specific FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm. Failure to comply with the fruit, vegetable, and wild rice provisions is a contract violation. The violation shall result in the termination of the contract or a reduction in direct, counter cyclical, and ACRE program payments. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509 by June 1 of the contract period. The following documents are required: a farm operating plan; an average adjusted gross income certification; a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions. A certified report of the acreage of all cropland on the farm is needed before final payments can be issued.

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 (FSN). When changes in ownership or operator take place, a farm reconstitution must be requested by Aug 1. The reconstitution (recon) is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are different methods used when completing a farm recon: **Estate Method**—the division of bases for a parent farm among the heirs settling an estate. **Designation by Landowner Method**—divides base in a manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and the purchaser or transferee. The Landowner Method can be used when: part of the farm is sold or ownership is transferred; an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; a tract is sold to two or more persons; tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years, unless a waiver is granted and the owner of the parent farm and the purchaser or transferee shall file a signed memorandum of understanding designating base-acres before the farm is reconstituted and any subsequent transfer of ownership. **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.

Minority Farm Register – The USDA’s FSA invites minority farmers to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new register is an

outreach tool for underserved farmers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm, or conservation programs. Those wishing to join must sign and date a form (AD-2035) by providing their name, address, and other information. Forms are available in the office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov under “forms”.

E-Newsletter – The Farm Service Agency will be moving to an E-Newsletter in the future. If you would like to receive our Newsletter via email, please provide our office with your email address.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance - Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Spousal Signatures - Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. Husbands and wives who have “official” joint ventures or partnerships must have a power of attorney on file to be able to sign for the entity.

Address Changes – If either a business address or a mailing address has changed in any way please make sure to provide that information to the FSA Office so that our records may be updated.



February 20, 2012 – President’s Day; office will be closed.

March 2, 2012 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:00 pm)

March 15, 2012 - Next NAP sales closing date for 2012 Beans, Brussels Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelons, and Yams.

June 1, 2012 – Deadline to file an application for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance program.

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