



June 2009

District D - Pennsylvania FSA

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Adams
Bedford
Cambria
Clearfield / Jefferson / Elk
Cumberland
Fulton
Huntingdon / Blair
York



June 2009

Adams County News

Adams County USDA Service Center

Adams County FSA
670 Old Harrisburg Rd.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-4216 (phone)
717-334-5999 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/

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

County Committee
Michael J. Smith (LAA 3)
Neil M. Starner (LAA 2)
Timothy C. Brown (LAA 1)
Advisor
Kay L. Bupp

FP Staff
Sharon B. Weigle, CED
Marcella J. Kammerer, PT
Judy A. Behney, PT
Bonni S. Sharrer, PT

FLP Staff
Richard Crouse, FLM
Douglas Gabel, FLO
Emme Rickabaugh, FLO
Rae Ann Myers, PT
Bonni S. Sharrer, PT



2009 County Committee Elections

Farmers in LAA 3 will have an opportunity to nominate and vote for a representative for their area which includes Reading, Hamilton, Berwick, Oxford, Mt. Pleasant, Conewago, Union and Germany Townships.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on: Commodity price support loans and payments; Conservation programs; Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; Emergency programs and Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

- **June 15** Nomination period begins.
- **August 3** Last day to file nomination.
- **November 6** Ballots mailed to voters.
- **December 7** Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- **January 1, 2010** Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office?

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA

- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the election is occurring

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A*. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

* Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Need On-Farm Feed Storage?

FSA offer loans to build grain bins, silos, bunker-type facilities for covered commodities that now includes hay. The term is currently 7 years and interest rates are attractive; May rate is 2.375%. Once the loan is approved you have 4 months to build the facility. Down-payment required in 15% of the costs. If you are thinking about storage for fall harvested crops see us soon so paperwork won't hold-up your harvest.

Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE)

What is ACRE? Am I eligible?

ACRE is an option available to producers with farms enrolled in USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program. To be eligible for ACRE, a farm must have established "base acres" with "covered commodities." Some covered commodities typical to the area include: Wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, soybeans, other oilseeds, and pulse crops.

ACRE allows eligible producers to receive revenue-based payments (on a per-farm basis) instead of the traditional counter-cyclical payments of the DCP program.

In exchange for ACRE payments, producers agree to:

- 1) Give up counter-cyclical payments
- 2) Accept 20% direct payment reductions
- 3) Accept 30% loan rate reductions for all future commodity loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) or "low price" payments

When enrolled in ACRE, producers are eligible for a combination of:

- 1) Direct Payments (Reduced 20% below the DCP Direct Payment rate); and
- 2) ACRE Payments

How are ACRE Payments Calculated?

Revenue-based ACRE payments are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted and considered planted covered commodity crops on the farm. Payments can be issued for planted acreage of a crop in excess of that crop's base; however, the maximum payment acreage is limited to the farm's total base acreage. It is irrelevant what crops originally were used to establish a farm's base; ACRE payments are made for currently planted crops, with payments limited by the farm's established base acreage.

No ACRE payment will be issued unless a covered commodity is planted on the farm!

Payments will be issued for a crop *only* if there are reductions in revenue for the state *and* farm, as determined by the State Trigger and Farm Triggers below. *Both* triggers must be met before payments are issued:

- 1) State Trigger: 90% of the State's Historical Revenue exceeds the Current Year State Revenue; *and*
- 2) Farm Trigger: The Farm's Historical Revenue exceeds the Current Year Farm Revenue

ACRE- A Two-Step Process

- 1) ACRE Election: All owners *and* producers on the farm *elect* to enter the farm into ACRE by signing the CCC-509ACRE; *and then*
- 2) ACRE Annual Farm Enrollment: Producers *enroll* the farm using the CCC-509 (this is similar to the process for DCP Contract Enrollment).

Step 1: Making the ACRE Election

Eligible producers make a one-time election to enter a farm or farms into the program. *All owners and producers on a farm must sign the ACRE Election Form (CCC-509 ACRE) before the farm can be enrolled.*

Once the ACRE election is made, it is permanent through 2012. The ACRE election is binding on the farm, not just on the farm's producers at the time the election is made! Exception: *Any producer* may unilaterally revoke the election for all of the farm if the election and revocation are both filed prior to the election deadline established for the initial year of election (August 14 for 2009, and June 1 of the year the contract was signed for subsequent years through 2012).

Q: *What if I miss the 8-14-09 ACRE election deadline?*

A: You may elect ACRE during the 2010 sign-up period or subsequent sign-up periods.

Step 2: Annual Farm Enrollment

ACRE farm enrollment (like DCP farm enrollment) takes place on an annual basis. You must submit an ACRE contract by August 14 for 2009 (and June 1 for subsequent years through 2012).

Q: *What if I have enrolled a farm in DCP for 2009, but I now want to enroll it in ACRE?*

A: The FSA office can cancel your DCP contract (even if you have received an advance payment), allowing you to enroll your farm in ACRE for 2009 using the forms CCC-509ACRE and CCC-509.

ACRE continued:

Q: *Can I enroll some of the base acres on my farm in ACRE and keep some in DCP?*

A: No, enrollment is by farm and includes all the farm's base acres.

ACRE participants must annually submit accurate reports to FSA of both acreage and crop production! Producers are *not* required to obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage in order to remain eligible for ACRE payments.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. All fall seeded crops (small grains including oats) must be reported by June 15. Producers need to file acreage reports by July 15 for corn, soybeans, hay, pasture, CRP/CREP, fruits and vegetables, etc. information required includes plant dates, location and intended use.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting must be reported **no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date** by filing Form CCC-576. Approval by FSA requires the prevention be due to a weather related event and not due to a management decision which includes failure to find a custom planter or failure of equipment.

Final Planting Dates:

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Corn | June 15 |
| Soybeans | June 20 |
| Wheat | October 30 |

New Commodity Loan Repayment Options

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Deadline Extended

The normal annual sign-up deadline for DCP and ACRE is June 1 however that date has been extended to August 14 for 2009 ONLY! There are no late filing provisions so if you miss this date you will not be eligible for 2009 payments.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Operator Changes or Ownership Changes

Regulations have changed that now require proof that a farm has changed operators or owners. If you are picking up a new farm you will need to present us with a lease or statement from the owner stating you will have control of the land for a specific timeframe before we can update records or take acreage reports or enroll the farm in any program.

For more info, visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pa>

MILC Start Month Designation

The MILC program will continue through 2012 and runs fiscally from October 1 to September 30 each year. If you have a CCC-580 already filed please be aware that your start month designation is perpetual; this means if you chose to start MILC payments in March in 2009, your payments will start again in March for 2010. You may elect to change your start month but must do so by the 14th of the month PRIOR to the month you wish to start and prior to your current start month if you want them to start later.

Payment rates are announced at the end of the month AFTER the milk was produced. For example we don't know the rate for April milk until the end of May. Payments must be processed within 60 days.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5-25-2009 | Memorial Day Holiday |
| 6-15-2009 | Election Nominations Begin |
| 6-15-2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (small grains) |
| 7-15-2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (CREP, CRP, corn, soybeans) |
| 8-1-2009 | Last day to request Farm Recon |
| 8-3-2009 | Election Nomination Deadline |
| 8-14-2009 | DCP/ACRE Enrollment Extended Deadline |
| 9-1-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on Christmas Tree |
| 9-30-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on pasture and small grain forage |
| 11-20-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on all perennial crops (cherry, plum, strawberry, raspberry, etc.) |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve program |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



June 2009

Bedford County FSA News

Bedford County USDA Service Center

702 West Pitt Street
Bedford, PA 15522

Phone Number

814- 623-7900

Fax Number

814-623-0481

Web Site

www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

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

County Committee

Lynn Chamberlain, Chair
Ross Snider, Vice Chair
Peg Henry, Member

County Executive Director

Robin Robertson

Staff

Susan Young, PT
Nancy Ellenberger, PT
Eric Lichty, FA

Farm Loan Officer

Valerie Detwiler
(814) 627-1624

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1, 2009

ACRE Meeting

July 15, 2009

Acreage reporting deadline

August 2, 2009

Last day for COC nomination forms.

August 14, 2009

Deadline for DCP enrollment & Acre election and enrollment.



Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. 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.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.

Using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. The GIS environment provides for the incorporation of data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Some examples of outside data sources include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types.

More information about the CLU and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

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The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001 may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

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County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms

Nov. 6, 2009 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 7, 2009 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

| County Committee Elections | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Bedford | 3 | Southampton |
| | | Mann |
| | | Monroe |
| | | East Providence |
| | | West Providence |
| | | Hopewell |
| | | Liberty |
| | | Broadtop |

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

Grassland Reserve Program

GRP, jointly administered by NRCS and FSA, offers producers several enrollment options: 1) rental contracts with durations of 10, 15 or 20 years that pay an annual per-acre payment to the landowner and 2) permanent easements that provide a one-time, lump-sum payment to the landowner. Applying for the Grassland Reserve Program is continuous. For more information on this program contact the FSA or NRCS office.

Farm Loan

Valerie Detwiler, FLO, will be holding offices hours in Bedford on the following days:

- June 16
- June 30
- July 14
- July 28

To schedule an appointment call the Huntington FSA office at (814) 627-1624.

Reminder to Producers

If you have changed financial institution, please notify the office. Failure to do so will prolong receiving program payments.

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher

A Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is an applicant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the two previous years, and
- that has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50% of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years

The Bedford County "County/Area value" is \$21, 200.00. For more information on Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher contact the county FSA Office.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| Continuous | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program |
| June 15, 2009 | COC nomination period opens |
| July 1, 2009 | 7:00 pm ACRE meeting @ Bedford Denny's Restaurant |
| July 15, 2009 | Acreage reporting deadline |
| Aug. 3, 2009 | Last day to file COC election nomination forms |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | DCP Signup Deadline & ACRE election and enrollment deadline |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



June 2009

CAMBRIA FSA News

Cambria USDA Service Center

Cambria FSA Office
171 Lovell Ave. Suite 203
Ebensburg, PA 15931

814-472-5501 x2 phone
814-472-5594 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

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

County Committee

Jerome Carl- Chair-Person
Robert Beyer- Vice-Chair
Dennis Hines- Member
Mary Lou Smithmyer-
Advisor

Staff

Dolly Little- CED
Deborah Roland - PT
Diane Trinkley - PT
Jean Bloom- PT
Dennis Yahner- FA
Ralph Farabaugh FA
Adam Hite - FA

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

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The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. 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.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.



Using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. The GIS environment provides for the incorporation of data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Some examples of outside data sources include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types.

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Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repay-

ment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details are available at your county FSA office.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms

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Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

| 2009 County Committee Elections | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Cambria | 1 | Elder, Chest |
| | | Susquehanna, Reade |
| | | White, Clearfield |
| | | Dean |
| | | East Carroll |
| | | West Carroll |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT (CREP) SIGNUP CONTINUES

CREP is a federal state natural resource conservation program targeted to address state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental problems.

CREP (Continued)

Through CREP, program participants receive an annual rental payment for each acre enrolled. Participants remove cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation.

Cropland must meet cropping history criteria. Marginal pastureland is eligible for enrollment provided it is suitable for use as a buffer practice.

Cost-share up to 50 percent of eligible costs is available for the installation of conservation practices on enrolled land.

Contract acres cannot be harvested or grazed. The participant must control noxious and undesirable weeds and woody growth and maintain the cover for the contract duration.

OPERATOR CHANGES

Regulations have changed that require proof that the farm operator or owners changed. If you are picking up a new farm you will need to present us with a lease or statement from the owner stating you are operating the farm for the year before we can update our records, take an acreage report or enroll the farm in any program. Proof of ownership changes is also required. A copy of the deed, sales agreement or tax statements can be used to provide proof of ownership changes.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Continuous | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program |
| May 4 thru May 29, 2009 | Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion |
| June 15, 2009 | COC nominations period opens Deadline to Report Small Grains |
| July 15, 2009 | Deadline to Report All Other Crops (Corn, CRP/CREP etc.) |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | 2009 ACRE election & signup deadline |
| Aug. 3, 2009 | Last day to file COC election nomination forms |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | DCP Signup Deadline |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



June 2009

Clearfield/Jefferson/Elk FSA News

Clfd/Jeff/Elk County USDA Service Center

Clfd/Jeff/Elk County FSA
478 Jeffers St.
DuBois, PA 15801

814 375-1297 phone
814 375-2435 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

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

County Committee

Mark Pifer
Kelly Holt
Marshall Wilson
Ralph McClarren
W. Earl Freyer

Staff

Michael Kerr, CED
Jeanne Marsh, PT
Georgiana Yingling, PT
Robert Edwards, FA

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

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LAA(s) up for Election

| County Committee Elections | | |
|----------------------------|------|---|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Clearfield | LAA2 | Lawrence, Goshen, Girard, Covington, Karthaus, Cooper, Graham, Bradford, Boggs, Morris, Decatur, Woodward, Bigler, Gulich, Beccaria |
| Jefferson | LAA4 | Beaver, Oliver, McCalmont, Winslow, Ringgold, Porter, Perry, Young, Bell, Gaskill, Henderson |

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June 2009

Cumberland FSA News

Cumberland County USDA Service Center

Cumberland County FSA
43 Brookwood Ave Suite 2
Carlisle, PA 17015-9172

717-249-3924 phone
717-243-9256 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

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

County Committee

Donald Basehore
Kenneth Ketterer
Fred Widders

Staff

Glenn Kimmel, CED
Dodie Garman, PT
Faye Garman, PT
Sandra Prazenica, PT
Richard Crouse, FLM
Douglas Gabel, FLO
Emme Rickabaugh, FLO

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ment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details are available at your county FSA office.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001 may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

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The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
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FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

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Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

| County Committee Elections | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Cumberland | 3 | South Newton, Southampton |
| | | Upper Mifflin |
| | | Lower Mifflin |
| | | Hopewell |
| | | Upper Frankford |
| | | Lower Frankford |

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM UPDATES

Contact the local NRCS Office (249-3924 ext. 3) if you are interested in enrolling in any of the following programs. **YOU CAN ENROLL IN ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS AT ANY TIME; HOWEVER, FUNDING IS LIMITED! PROMPT ENROLLMENT IS ENCOURAGED.**

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Contracts are authorized for an incentive payment to complete no-tilling/cover crops/manure pits/

cattle crossings/barnyard improvements/fencing/rotational grazing/composters/etc.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

Contracts are authorized to restore wetland areas to their original state.

WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WHIP)

Contracts are authorized to establish wildlife habitat practices.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)

Contracts are authorized to allow participants to protect, restore, and enhance grassland on their property.

CUMBERLAND CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Kristen Kitchen, District staff, has information and an application form to file to obtain funding to get a **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETED FREE OF CHARGE. FUNDS ARE LIMITED-FILE TODAY! Call Kristen at 240-5360 for details!!**

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| Continuous Signup | Wetland Reserve Program Grassland Reserve Program Environmental Quality Incentives Program/Wildlife Habitat Program |
| June 15, 2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (small grains) |
| June 15, 2009 | COC nominations period opens |
| July 15, 2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (CREP, CRP, corn, soybeans) |
| Aug. 1, 2009 | Last day to request Farm Recon. |
| Aug. 3, 2009 | Last day to file COC election nomination forms |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | 2009 ACRE/DCP election signup deadline |
| Sept. 1, 2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on 2010 Christmas Trees |
| Sept. 30, 2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on pasture and small grain forage |
| Nov. 20, 2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on all perennial crops (cherry, plum, strawberry, raspberry, etc.) |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



June 2009

Fulton FSA News

Fulton County USDA Service Center

Fulton County FSA
216 N 2nd Street
McConnellsburg PA

717-485-3231 X2
717-485-4115 Fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Debra Palmer
Nathan Hixson
Mark Knepper
Barry Bivens, Alternate
Lester Litton, Alternate

Staff

John K. Johnston, CED
Brenda Palmer, PT
Carole Mellott, Pt
Roger Horton, FA

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. 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.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.



Using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. The GIS environment provides for the incorporation of data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Some examples of outside data sources include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types.

More information about the CLU and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

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The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

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- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

| County Committee Elections | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Fulton | 3 | Thompson, Bethel And Union |

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

Fulton County Ag Appreciation Picnic

Several Fulton County organizations will be sponsoring an Ag Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, July 12th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion Picnic Grounds just north of McConnellsburg. This picnic will take the place of the annual Farm Bureau Picnic and the Farm-City or Tri-Ag Banquet. Local organizations supporting this event include the Fulton County Farm Bureau, Fulton County Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Fulton County Milk Promoters.

The event will include a free pig roast, volleyball tournament and kids activities. Pork, rolls, place settings and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share with the group. No alcoholic beverages please. An RSVP would be greatly appreciated – please do so by Monday, July 6th. Everyone in the community is invited to attend! Please come and enjoy a lazy summer day, share some great food and fellowship and show your appreciation for Fulton County agriculture. To RSVP or for additional information, please contact the Fulton County Conservation District at 717-485-3547, extension 116.

NOTE: July 15th is the deadline to report corn, soybeans and hay planted acres. Failure to report may result in loss of program benefits.

| Dates to Remember | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Continuous | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program |
| May 4 thru May 29, 2009 | Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion |
| June 15, 2009 | COC nominations period opens |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | 2009 ACRE election & signup deadline |
| Aug. 3, 2009 | Last day to file COC election nomination forms |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | DCP Signup Deadline |

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June 2009

Huntingdon\Blair FSA News

Huntingdon\Blair USDA Service Center

Huntingdon\Blair FSA
10605 Raystown Rd Ste.B
Huntingdon, PA 16652

814-627-1624 x2 phone
814-627-6831 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

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

County Committee

Max Smith- Chair-Person
John Lynn- Vice-Chair
Nelson Sangrey- Member
Gerald McMath- Member
Payton Gummo- Member
Deborah Kling- Min Advisor

Staff

Callista Little- Actg CED
Michael Holbay- Actg CED
John Skebeck- FLM
Bruce Horning- FLO
Valerie Detwiler- FLO
Christine Farbaugh- PT
Rodrick Thomas- PT
Natalie Allison- PT
Sandra Sajeski-PT
Clair Clapper- FA
John Favinger- FA



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Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms

Nov. 6, 2009 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 7, 2009 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

| 2009 County Committee Elections | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| County | LAA | Townships |
| Blair | 1 | Allegheny, Antis, |
| | | Juniata, Logan, |
| | | Snyder, Tyrone |
| | | |
| Huntingdon | 1 | Franklin, Morris |
| | | Spruce Creek |
| | | Warriors Mark |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT (CREP) SIGNUP CONTINUES

CREP is a federal state natural resource conservation program targeted to address state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental problems.

CREP (Continued)

Through CREP, program participants receive an annual rental payment for each acre enrolled. Participants remove cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation.

Cropland must meet cropping history criteria. Marginal pastureland is eligible for enrollment provided it is suitable for use as a buffer practice.

Cost-share up to 50 percent of eligible costs is available for the installation of conservation practices on enrolled land.

Contract acres cannot be harvested or grazed. The participant must control noxious and undesirable weeds and woody growth and maintain the cover for the contract duration.

OPERATOR CHANGES

Regulations have changed that require proof that the farm operator or owners changed. If you are picking up a new farm you will need to present us with a lease or statement from the owner stating you are operating the farm for the year before we can update our records, take an acreage report or enroll the farm in any program. Proof of ownership changes is also required. A copy of the deed, sales agreement or tax statements can be used to provide proof of ownership changes.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Continuous | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program |
| May 4 thru May 29, 2009 | Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion |
| June 15, 2009 | COC nominations period opens Deadline to Report Small Grains |
| July 15, 2009 | Deadline to Report All Other Crops (Corn, CRP/CREP etc.) |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | 2009 ACRE election & signup deadline |
| Aug. 3, 2009 | Last day to file COC election nomination forms |
| Aug. 14, 2009 | DCP Signup Deadline |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



June 2009

York FSA News

York County USDA Service Center

York County FSA
120 Pleasant Acres Rd
York, PA 17402-8987

717-755-2966 Phone
717-840-1302 Fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours
Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Robert E. Rebert II
James E. Eisenhower Jr.
Mervin E. Haugh III
Catherine Burton

County Committee tentatively
meets:
June 9, 2009

Staff

Richard F. Csutoras, CED
Janet M. Dehoff, PT
Anne T. Crist, PT
Tina M. Gross, PT
Katie L. McMillen, PT

2009 County Committee Elections

Farmers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will have an opportunity to nominate and vote for a representative for their area.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on: Commodity price support loans and payments; Conservation programs; Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; Emergency programs and Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

- **June 15** Nomination period begins.
- **August 3** Last day to file nomination.
- **November 6** Ballots mailed to voters.
- **December 7** Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- **January 1, 2010** Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office?

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the election is occurring

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A*. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

* Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

LAA up for Election

County Committee Elections

| County | LAA | Townships |
|--------|-----|------------|
| York | 1 | Fairview |
| | | Newberry |
| | | Manchester |
| | | Jackson |
| | | Paradise |
| | | Washington |
| | | Warrington |
| | | Dover |
| | | Franklin |
| | | Dillsburg |
| | | Carroll |
| | | Monaghan |



Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries.

More details are available at your county FSA office.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
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Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

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The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. 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.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation’s farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.

Using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. The GIS environment provides for the incorporation of data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Some examples of outside data sources include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types. More information about the CLU and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Operator Changes or Ownership Changes

Regulations have changed that now require proof that a farm has changed operators or owners. If you are picking up a new farm you will need to present us with a lease or statement from the owner stating you will have control of the land for a specific timeframe, along with the owner's contact information, before we can update records or take acreage reports or enroll the farm in any program.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| 6-15-2009 | Election Nominations Begin |
| 6-15-2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (small grains) |
| 7-3-2009 | July 4 th Holiday – Office closed |
| 7-15-2009 | Acreage Reporting Deadline (CREP, CRP, corn, soybeans) |
| 8-1-2009 | Last day to request Farm Recon |
| 8-3-2009 | Election Nomination Deadline |
| 8-14-2009 | DCP/ACRE Enrollment Extended Deadline |
| 9-1-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on Christmas Tree |
| 9-30-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on pasture and small grain forage |
| 11-20-2009 | Sales Closing date for NAP on all perennial crops (cherry, plum, strawberry, raspberry, etc.) |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve program |

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