



May 2009

Orleans County News

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

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Donna Hammond, Voting Member
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2nd Wednesday of each month.

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Dee Nault
Paul Daniels, Chair
Bill Lawson, Vice Chair
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer
Karen O'Donnell
William Ryan
Darryl Mongeon



Crop Production Reporting

Reporting of your annual harvested production is required for all NAP and SURE producers. SURE is the current disaster program. To participate in SURE, you are required to have NAP and/or insurance coverage on your crops. You are also required to provide timely reports of harvested production. Timely means before the crop reporting deadline for the following crop year.

DCP & ACRE 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. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

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. Once elected, you must remain in ACRE for the duration of the 2008 Farm Bill.

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. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Reporting Crop Acreage

Deadline – June 30 for Small Grains & July 15 for all Other Crops

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report 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 (including ALL HAY reports) *must be reported* to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), and NAP (Non Insured Crop Disaster Program).



Conservation Reserve Program acreage *must be reported* to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage that is enrolled in Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle/fallow or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 30th** for small grains and **July 15th** for all other crops. *Please call to set up an appointment.*

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 a natural disaster.

Crop reports made after July 15 may be accepted but are considered late reports and fees apply. Be timely!

Planting Dates -- Please keep track of your planting dates as these are needed when you certify your crop acreage. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program. Planting dates are required for farmers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance.

ALL Hay or Not Planting Crops in 2009 --

Beat the rush by reporting your hay and fallow ground today. Call us now! We can send you a crop report to sign and return by mail. (802-334-6090)

Request for Soybean Referendum

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at county FSA offices beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009. Producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from FSA. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Nominations for County Committee

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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 (USDA).

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. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.

Producers who are residents in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding the election and who are eligible to participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on* the county committee.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3.

Election Timetable

- June 15 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 3 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 6 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 7 Deadline to return completed ballots

The election this year is for LAA #2. The towns included in this area are: ***Irassburg, Albany, Barton, Orleans, Glover, West Glover, Craftsbury, Craftsbury Common, Greensboro and Greensboro Bend.*** Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

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 throughout 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 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.