



April 2, 2010

Whitman County News

2010 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

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Bonnie Riebold Doreen Riedner
Kelley Betts (temp. employee)
Michelle Peterschick (student intern)

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Dates to Remember:

April 13th County Committee Mtg

May 31st: Holiday/Office Closed

June 1st: Deadline for enrollment in DCP/ACRE

June 30th: Final date for Acreage Reporting!

June 30th: Deadline for providing 2009 Production for ACRE Program

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and/or ACRE is well underway and will continue until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Please remember, enrollment into DCP and or the ACRE program is an **annual event**. You are required to come into the office and sign the DCP/ACRE contract every year.

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 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. 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.

Potential ACRE payment rates for the 2009 ACRE participants will be determined at the end of the marketing year for each applicable crop. For wheat, the marketing year runs from June 1 through May 31. Therefore we will know the actual National Marketing price in June 2010 for the 2009 marketing year. Any calculated 2009 ACRE payments will be issued in October 2010.

PRODUCTION EVIDENCE FOR ACRE

Producers who have enrolled their farms into the ACRE program are required to provide annual production records to the County office by no later than June 30th, the final acreage reporting date. It is the Producers responsibility to provide the office with accurate and complete information for farms enrolled in ACRE. You can certify to your 2009 production on form "FSA-658, Record of Production and yield". However certified production must be supported by acceptable production records if requested by FSA. It is imperative that your 2009 production information be provided by the June 30th deadline as your ACRE payment amount is calculated based on your farms actual planted acres and yield information. If you have questions as to what is required regarding production information as it applies to the ACRE program, please give Bonnie a call and she will help in answering your questions.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

Signup for the new SURE program is well underway throughout the Country. The SURE program addresses eligible crop losses experienced in 2008. Payments will be issued to eligible producers in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE program guarantee and the total farm revenue for a producer. Please remember, to qualify for program payments under SURE, you must have had crop insurance coverage on all insurable crops and/or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all uninsurable crops of economic significance.

If you have not yet checked to see if your farm(s) may qualify for a SURE payment, please contact the County office and make an appointment with Jonelle.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs are required to be actively applying a conservation system on all highly erodible land (HEL) they operate. Several areas where problems may arise in complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE taking any of these actions. Also, it is very important that you contact the county office before modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all USDA payments and eligibility.



COMMODITY LOANS

FSA offers 9-month CCC loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. The loans enable producers to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold their commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. The commodity must be provided safe storage through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity. FSA will disburse a commodity loan or record settlement of a forfeited farm-stored loan only after receiving acceptable documentation from the producer.

Producers may choose a Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) in lieu of a loan. The LDP payment amount is determined by comparing the posted county price (PCP) for a commodity to the county loan rate for that commodity in the county. If the PCP is less than the county loan rate, the producer may file for a payment of the difference between the two prices on the date of application, or the date beneficial interest is lost. Producers must have beneficial interest when applying for an LDP.

Final availability date for loans and LDP's are January 31 for mohair, wool and unshorn pelts; March 31 for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed; May 31 for corn, dry peas, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seeds.

FARM DIVISIONS and RECONSTITUTIONS

Any land divisions or additions on your farm impacts your acreage bases. For program purposes, FSA adheres to a landowner designation of dividing bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This method of dividing the bases may be used when any part of a farm or tract is sold or ownership is transferred, an entire tract or farm is sold to two or more persons, or farm or tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years unless the County Committee approves a waiver of this requirement.

AGI COMPLIANCE

As Producers have been enrolling in the DCP/ACRE program, they have been provided with consent forms to be completed and submitted to IRS. These forms authorize IRS to disclose a **very limited amount of information** to USDA for 2009 and 2010 average adjusted gross income (AGI) compliance purposes. Producers must submit the applicable form to IRS, authorizing the review, in order to retain 2009 and future payments subject to current AGI requirements. The form must be mailed to the IRS within 60 days of signing the form. FSA cannot accept the consent forms. Two consent forms, one for individuals (CCC-927) and one for legal entities (CCC-928) will be used. Every individual or entity who was required to file form CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement, must file the applicable consent form. IRS will provide FSA and NRCS with a report, indicating whether or not producers met the statutory AGI limits. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. Consent forms can be obtained at the local USDA Service Center or online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

FSA – LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

The Farm Service Agency offers farm loan assistance to farmers and ranchers who have the experience and desire to own and operate their own farm or ranch, but who don't yet meet the qualifications to obtain financing from a traditional lender. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed loans. FSA has a variety of loans, including Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Emergency and Youth. To find out more about FSA's lending programs, contact our new Farm Loan Manager, Houston Bruck, in the Spokane County FSA office. Houston's contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

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