



April 2011

Goshen County News

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April 2011 Edition

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DCP and ACRE Signup, Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. (Please note: Late-filed DCP/ACRE contract enrollment can be accepted through August 1, 2011.)

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Acres Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. In Wyoming, crop acreage reports are to be certified by the **July 1, 2011** deadline.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

Fruit/Vegetable Plantings

We remind growers of Fruit & Vegetables (FAV) of possible DCP payment impacts. Applicable FAV's include dry beans, potatoes, onions, and grapes. We suggest that if you are planning on planting any FAV's on a farm that will be enrolled in DCP for 2011, to address your intentions with this office and we can estimate if and how this would affect your payments.

CRP Signup Ends April 15

Farmers and ranchers have until April 15 to enroll eligible land into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the general sign-up period, which opened earlier this month.

Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the wildlife, water, soil, and air benefits of enrolling the land in CRP. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>

Signup for SURE Program

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 10, 2011. SURE 2009 covers producers who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2009.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

The deadline for 2009 SURE applications has been set as July 29, 2011.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

COC Nominations Open

The County Office Committee (COC) plays a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA COC election process by nominating an eligible candidate by Aug. 1.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. This form is available at your local FSA Office, or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov; select *News & Events* then *County Committee Elections*. Nomination forms for the 2011 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on August 1, 2011.

In Goshen County this year, the election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which includes all of Townships 24 and 25, in the middle of the county.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local producers.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 4, 2011. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by December 5, 2011.

Oil Exploration on CRP and Cropland

With the current influx of oil exploration being conducted in the area, chances are that some of this is happening on existing CRP contracts. CRP participants are required to apply for permission from the local FSA County Committee **prior** to any action taking place on the applicable acreage. This included any seismic exploration and test wells being erected. County Committees will deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis. Failure to notify FSA prior to disturbing the cover could jeopardize the continuation of the contract and result in considerable penalties.

If, and when, any permanent wells are erected on CRP, FSA needs to know so that the applicable acreage can be determined and terminated from the CRP contract. Again, this will be done on a case-by-case basis.

Concerning existing cropland, once a permanent structure is completed, please let us know. We will need to adjust cropland acres and potentially adjust crop bases so that you can accurately report acres and we can accurately make program payments.

NOTE: this provision would also apply to the erection of any wind turbines.

DCP/ACRE Erosion and Cover Requirements

If a farm has non-planted cropland that supports DCP base acres, those fields must be protected from wind and water erosion and weed control measures may have to be implemented to assure program compliance.

If erosion problems exist, the County Committee has the authorization to require treatments such as planting a cover crop or emergency tillage.

Weed control on these acres is required to prevent the propagation of weeds. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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. Common Land Unit (CLU) measurement data for the producer's farm may be provided in the FSA office free of charge.

Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Measurement service rates are:

- Farm visits-\$30 Basic Farm Fee + \$16 first hour + \$8 every 30 minutes after the first hour (1 hour minimum)
- No Farm visit-\$15 Basic Fee + \$8 every 30 minutes (30 minutes minimum)

CRP Requirements and Reminders

CRP participants are obligated to maintain the established cover. Participants shall ensure:

- Adequate approved vegetative cover is maintained to control erosion for the period of the contract.
- Compliance with state and local noxious weed laws. If any noxious weeds are found on CRP, you will be referred to the local weed & pest officials to draw up a plan for weed control.
- Control of other weeds as determined by the County Committee.
- That undesirable vegetation, weeds, insects, rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area are controlled.
- An annual acreage report must be filed to confirm the acres are still being maintained as CRP.

FSA conducts periodic spot checks on CRP to confirm program compliance. Your neighbor also conducts checks, so it is in your best interest to keep on top of things.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:
www.blackfarmerscase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
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Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
May 31, 2011	Final date to apply for 2010 corn/sunflower loan or LDP
Mar. 14, 2011- Apr. 15, 2011	Signup period for general CRP (Signup 41)
Oct. 1, 2010 – June 1, 2011	Signup period for 2011 DCP/ACRE
Jan. 10, 2011 – July 29, 2011	Signup period for 2009 SURE
July 1, 2011	Deadline to timely file 2011 acreage report

/s/ Darrell L. Jones

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