



April 2010

2010 DCP & ACRE SIGNUP

If you haven't signed up for either the 2010 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (**DCP**) or the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (**ACRE**) you should contact your FSA to enroll. The signup period closes June 1, 2010. Signatures from each participant on the farm contract must be submitted by that deadline for the contract to be considered for approval. Call your FSA office today for an appointment to enroll your farm into the 2010 farm program.

You can stay in **DCP** for 2010 or you may opt to participate in **ACRE** for crop year 2010 and beyond through 2012. **ACRE** provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. **ACRE** payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met.

By participating in **ACRE**, you elect to *forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.* The decision to elect **ACRE** is irrevocable, binding the farm to the **ACRE** program through the 2012 crop year. For more information visit FSA's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=dccp&topic=landing>

REPORT 2010 PLANTED ACRES

It is time to certify the planted wheat and other small grain crops on your farm for 2010 harvest. **June 1** is the deadline to report planted small grain crop acres.

Remember to come back and report again when you have completed your spring planting of feed grains and oilseed crops. These acres, CRP acres and all other cropland uses must be reported to FSA by **August 1**.

NAP crops like native grass and other crops for grazing or forage must be reported the earlier of 15 calendar days prior to harvest or grazing those acres, or August 1.

REPORTING ON FAILED ACRES

Don't forget to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, with FSA prior to destroying *any* failed acres. By notifying the FSA office of these failed acres, it will give FSA the ability to certify the affected acres as failed, which in turn could retain those acres for crop history on your farm if the loss is a result of an eligible cause of loss.



IRS Information Consent Forms

Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must be verified annually through the life of the current farm bill. USDA and IRS have agreed that IRS will advise USDA-FSA on those producers whose income exceeds the established levels if those producers will first authorize release of that information. This is accomplished through the CCC-927 for individuals and CCC-928 for entities. All producers and embedded entities and the entity members must file or else they will be determined ineligible for program payments. Forms must be submitted to IRS in Fresno, CA by June 15, 2010. Be sure to complete the form in its entirety. Each producer must file a separate form, even husbands and wives.

2008-CROP SURE APPLICATIONS

"SURE" is a disaster program for crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the SURE program beginning with the 2008 crop year and ending with losses incurred on or before Sept 30, 2011.

FSA is currently accepting SURE applications for 2008-crops in many Kansas counties, especially in Western Kansas. Call or stop by your FSA office to initiate the SURE application process if you had losses in 2008.

SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties. Other producers may be eligible in *any* county that can show they incurred a 50% or greater revenue loss on their entire farm. This program determines loss levels on the entire farming operation (all farming interests in all counties) rather than by farm unit.

The payment limitation is \$100K for SURE, but that limitation is shared with other programs such as Emergency Livestock (ELAP), Livestock Indemnity Prog. (LIP), and Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance (LFP).



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision, impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact your local FSA office to make arrangements for necessary accommodations.

Dates to Remember...

May 31	Deadline to request a Marketing Assistance Loan for 2009-crop corn, sorghums or oilseeds
June 1	Deadline to certify small seeded crops
June 1	Deadline to enroll in and have all signatures submitted for DCP or ACRE 2010 contracts
June 15	Submit CCC-927 or CC-928 to IRS for AGI consent
June	FSA begins accepting Nominations for 2010 county committee election
August 1	Deadline to certify spring seeded crops, plus CRP, and NAP (<i>however, NAP is earlier of Aug 1 or 15 days prior to grazing or harvest</i>)
August 1	Deadline to request a 2010-year farm "recon"
Ongoing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuous CRP signup ➤ Direct & Guar. Operating or Farm Owner Loans ➤ Rural Youth Loans ➤ Farm Storage Facility Loans

CRP - Early Land Preparation

If you have CRP that will expire Sept 30, 2010 you may file a request for Early Land Preparation on your Conservation Reserve contract. When approved, this option authorizes destruction of established CRP grass cover as early as May 1, 2010 if you intend to plant a fall seeded crop. However, no crop may be "harvested" from CRP acreage prior to October 1, 2010. Benefit of the grass for hay or grazing is prohibited. Contact your FSA for more details on "*early land preparation*".

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA offers low interest loans to grain producers to build new or to upgrade existing storage facilities and/or permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen limiting and other upright silo type structures, and flat type storage structures.
- New hay or renewable biomass storage; Fruit or Vegetable cold storage facilities
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility.
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum loan amount will be 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Ask for more information at your local FSA office.

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 may be necessary. If an owner or operator cannot 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 (known as a *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.

Online Services

Do you have Internet access? A variety of FSA forms and information is available to you in the comfort of your home and on your schedule. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some applications directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link. Ask at your local FSA for more information.

Power of Attorney for Farm Programs

Is it difficult for you to visit the county office in person? FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your FSA business at the office. If you are interested, please contact any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

NAP Basic Provisions

Producers may access the Noninsured (crop disaster) Assistance Program (NAP) contract Basic Provisions (form **CCC-471 NAP BP**) through the FSA web site located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. After accessing this web site, CLICK "Disaster Assistance Programs". On the Disaster Assistance home page CLICK "View NAP Basic Provisions" located under "I want to..."

Remember, if you have a NAP policy you must file a **Notice of Loss on your NAP crops** within 15 calendar days of: the date the disaster occurred; or the date damage to the crop becomes apparent.



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as **direct loans** for a maximum of up to \$300,000 each. **Guaranteed loans** can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact your county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Foreign Investors 90-day Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U. S. Agricultural land are required by Law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days **to the local FSA Office**. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in the agricultural land.

