



SOUTHWEST KANSAS -- Finney, Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Meade, Morton, Seward, Scott, Stanton and Stevens

April 2009

2009 DCP & ACRE SIGNUP

Enrollment for the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway right now at your local FSA office. The signup period has been extended to August 14, 2009. Signatures from each participant on the farm must be submitted by that August 14 deadline for the contract to be considered for approval. Call your FSA office today for an appointment to enroll your farm into the 2009 farm program.

If you are eligible for DCP you are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for ACRE is expected to begin before May 1.

You can decide to stay in DCP for 2009 or participate in ACRE for crop year 2009 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, producers 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 binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act. For State prices and yields go to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=dcp&topic=landing>

REPORT 2009 PLANTED ACRES

If you haven't yet, you should phone your FSA office to make an appointment to certify the small grain use of cropland acres on your farm for 2009 harvest. June 1 is the deadline to report planted small grain acres to the Farm Service Agency.

When you have completed your spring planting please visit your FSA Office to get those feed grain, oilseed and CRP acres reported. The deadline for all cropland uses, other than small grains, is 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 these are a result of an eligible cause of loss.

CRP CONTINUOUS SIGNUP

Numerous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, encompassing over 2 million acres in Kansas will expire between 2009 and 2013. Many contract holders may choose to return their acres back to crop production or grazing land.

To maintain the conservation benefits achieved in the CRP, FSA encourages you to consider keeping some or all of the environmentally sensitive acreage under CRP contract. While re-enrollment options under general signup are limited, landowners may enroll their environmentally sensitive acres in continuous CRP signup at any time.

Continuous CRP practices include riparian forest buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, and wildlife habitat buffers, which provide important environmental benefits, such as promoting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

FSA accepts continuous CRP signup contracts automatically, provided landowners meet eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP signup contracts are 10-15 years long and pay an enhanced rental rate.

(CRP Continuous Signup – continued)

CRP practice CP-38E, is also known as "SAFE" Habitat for Upland Game Birds in Kansas for the Northern Bobwhite quail, ring necked pheasants, greater prairie-chickens and other grassland associated wildlife is available.

The purpose of this Continuous CRP practice is to improve populations of the game birds by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. The practice will provide edge-type permanent cover within cropped fields for these game birds. All areas throughout Kansas are eligible to enroll acres in CP-38E. A one time Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) will both apply to a CP-38E offer.

Currently, eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six specific years. The land must be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

MOWING CRP CONTRACTS

Your **CRP contract PROHIBITS:** 1) mowing CRP around irrigated circles on corners in CRP; 2) mowing hunting lanes; 3) any mowing for cosmetic purposes; 4) annual mowing for CRP weed control; 5) mowing of CRP to park machinery/equipment. You should always contact your local FSA office **before mowing any CRP** to ensure you will stay within the maintenance requirements for your contract.



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 2008-crop corn, sorghums or oilseeds
June 1	Deadline to certify small seeded crops
June	FSA begins accepting Nominations for 2009 county committee election ballots
August 1	Deadline to certify spring seeded crops, plus CRP, and NAP (<i>NAP is earlier of Aug 1 or 15 days prior to grazing or harvest</i>)
August 1	Deadline to request a 2009-year farm reconstitution
August 14	Deadline to submit all signatures on DCP or ACRE contracts
Ongoing:	➤ Continuous CRP signup
	➤ Direct & Guar. Operating or Farm Owner Loans
	➤ Rural Youth Loans
	➤ Farm Storage Facility Loans

NAP Basic Provisions

Producers may access the NAP contract Basic Provisions (identified as **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..."

It is important that if you filed a 2009 NAP contract you are aware of the Basic Provisions for your NAP coverage. If you do not have computer access please contact your local FSA for a copy of the Basic Provisions.

Extending Buy-In Waiver for Those Impacted by Natural Disasters in the 2008 crop year

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allows producers to become eligible for **2008 disaster assistance** authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill even if you did not previously obtain otherwise statutorily required crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008. You now only need to pay a buy-in fee which is **available until May 18, 2009**.

An additional opportunity is available if you suffered losses as a result of natural disaster. Paying such a buy-in fee does not provide you with crop insurance or NAP for the 2008 crop year; it merely permits you to become eligible for the 2008-crop disaster assistance programs.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for **2008-crops** you may now become eligible by completing the following steps **by May 18, 2009**:

- Paying a \$100 buy-in fee per crop. The maximum fee for insurable or non-insurable crops is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop (FCIC), excluding grazing land, agreeing to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each non-insurable crop, you agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who choose to buy in under this provision will be considered, for insured crops for the 2008 Farm Bill disaster assistance programs only, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For non-insurable crops for the 2008 Farm Bill disaster programs only, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee. Producers who buy in will not be eligible for actual crop insurance or NAP benefits for the 2008 crop.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Let Us Be Your Lender Of First Opportunity

New federal programs have been enacted to stimulate beginning and younger farmers to establish new, or retain ownership of existing, small family farms. These exciting new trends in rural America present the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs with opportunities for increased lending activity in the farm community.

FSA staff can refer customers to other public financial aid sources that can serve as a blend with the Farm Loan Programs. We specialize in:

- Loans for beginning farmers, disaster recovery, operational financing, and farm ownership.
- Farm planning and counseling.
- Supervised credit and assistance through the life of your loan.
- Sustained financial planning services.

FSA Farm Loan Programs provide a variety of loan types for every need. These include operating, ownership, disaster, youth and loans for beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants. Whether it's a beginning, socially disadvantaged, or an emerging farm business, Farm Loan Programs can help get you on the right track with our farm planning services.

The FSA Farm Loan Programs staff is well-trained in both lending and farm operations, providing a sounding board and source of counsel. FSA staff provides supervised credit throughout the life of the loan, staying with the customer long after the loan is awarded.

Commercial and Farm Credit lenders' portfolios are strengthened by Farm Loan Programs' guaranteed loans. FSA offers low rates for Direct Loan customers, and we can assist you in buying down a guaranteed loan rate.

FSA's commitment to doing things better in the industry provides you with fresh perspectives, alternatives, and creative ways of growing your business.

Contact the Farm Service Agency at your local USDA Service Center and let them be your lender of first opportunity. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



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