



Lincoln County FSA News



July 2009

Lincoln County FSA
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Office Hours
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Lincoln County FSA Committee

Nick Biggs, Chairperson
Dale Rosebrook, Vice-Chairperson
Damon Vonada, Regular Member
Marylyn Bell, Advisor
-Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of month-

DCP & ACRE Updates

The signup period for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program ends on **AUGUST 14, 2009**. There are no late-filing provisions under the current farm law.

Even if producers already signed up for the DCP program and accepted advance payments, they can switch to the ACRE program prior to the August 14 deadline.

The ACRE option is intended to provide a safety net for crop revenue shortfall due to price and/or production declines at the state and farm level. Both state and farm “triggers” must be met before ACRE payments are made. To participate in ACRE, producers give up counter-cyclical payments and 20% of the “direct” DCP payment, and accept a 30% reduction in commodity loan rates. An annual ACRE election period will be offered, but once the farm is enrolled in ACRE, it will be locked in through 2012.

Farm Reconstitutions Deadline Aug. 3

A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts of land that have the same owner and same operator. The sale of land or a change of farm operator would be examples where FSA would likely require a farm reconstitution to divide the farm. Farm reconstitutions could also involve combining tracts to create new farms. For 2009 only, the final date to request a reconstitution has been extended to **AUGUST 3, 2009**.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Issues

--HAYING/GRAZING: FSA is currently accepting written requests for “managed” CRP haying or grazing to begin **July 16**. Most CRP producers who used the hay/graze provisions in past years will be under the “old” rules allowing eligible CRP acres to be hayed or grazed on a three-year rotational basis. However, the rules changed in 2007 for new CRP contracts and those old contracts that did not have the “managed” provisions before. These “new” rules basically limit eligible CRP acreage to be hayed once within a ten-year period, or grazed twice in a ten-year period. A 25% payment reduction applies to the actual acres hayed or grazed. After written requests are approved, CRP haying must be completed by **August 15**, but grazing can continue until **November 12** if forage limits are maintained.

--EXPIRING CRP: Only three CRP contracts out of 87 set to expire on September 30, 2009, in Lincoln County, were offered extensions in May. And, it has been announced that no “general” CRP signup will be held this year. So, what are the options? First, producers should visit the FSA office to see if enrolling some acreage under the “continuous” CRP practices would be feasible. Second, producers could file an application for early land preparation, or wait for expiration, and take required action to farm the land once again but in compliance with the conservation provisions. And, third, the land could simply be left in grass after CRP expiration for haying and/or grazing, and potentially remain eligible for a possible CRP “general” enrollment at a later date. Because the 2008 farm law decreased the total amount of CRP acreage nationwide, any future “general” CRP signup is likely to be very competitive.

--NEW CRP: For land currently being farmed, CRP signup is on-going for “continuous” practices such as waterways, filter strips (next to streams), contour and terrace grass strips, windbreaks, quail buffers (field borders), and the newest CP38E practice. CP38E is available for “official” fields of five acres or less which may be difficult to farm. CP38E also allows some flexibility to eliminate “point rows”, creating “blocks” of habitat for wildlife. Many of these practices offer a \$100 per acre signup incentive up front, and higher cost-share and annual rental payments.

2009-Crop Acreage Reports

The final date to file acreage reports for 2009 corn, grain sorghum (milo), soybeans, sunflowers, CRP, and all other crop and land uses has been extended until **AUGUST 14, 2009**. This extended deadline is for 2009 only and also applies to crops that were planted but failed, and/or spring-planted crops that were prevented from planting due to adverse weather conditions. Late-filing fees and other restrictions apply to acreage reports filed after the deadline. Under current farm law, complete acreage reports are required for programs such as DCP, ACRE, commodity loans or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP’s), etc. FSA measurement services are available for a fee if you are unsure of your acreage.

Foreign Land Ownership

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires any foreign investor who buys, sells, or transfers agricultural land to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days.

FSA County Committee Election

FSA is seeking nominations for the County Committee elections to be held by mail ballot from November 6 through December 7, 2009. Each year, an election is held to elect a FSA County Committee member from about one-third of each county. This year, the election will involve producers in the following townships: Colorado (12-6), Elkhorn (12-7), Franklin (13-7), Logan (11-6), Madison (13-6), and Valley (13-8). Most farm operators and owners with farming interests in the areas indicated above are eligible to nominate, be nominated, and hold office, but some exceptions do apply. FSA-669A nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the FSA office, and must be completed and returned by **August 3, 2009**.

Report Failed and Prevented Planted Acres

Each year, some crop acreage fails or is significantly damaged by adverse weather or related conditions. And, at times, weather may not permit some crops from being planted timely, so "prevented planting" provisions could apply. In general, for insured crops, the losses are being reported to insurance agents, but not to the FSA office.

Producers need to be aware that ALL crop losses, insurable and non-insurable, should be reported to FSA. Crop losses must be reported **within 15 days** from the date of the disaster event or when a loss is apparent, and definitely BEFORE any failed crop is grazed, hayed, silaged, destroyed, or abandoned. Normally, FSA will use crop insurance information to support insured crop losses, but FSA must inspect other crop losses, especially if the crops are covered by FSA under the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Prevented Planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop because of a natural disaster. The final planting dates are those established by crop insurance for insurable crops and set by FSA for non-insurable crops. Crops that were prevented from planting must be reported to FSA **within 15 days** from the final planting dates.

Keep Bank Records Updated for FSA Payments

Producers are urged to notify FSA immediately if any changes are made to bank accounts. Although the vast majority of payments are made by "direct deposit" (EFT- (Electronic Funds Transfer), all paper checks must now be issued by the U.S. Treasury. This will delay receipt.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, contact Bill Wineinger at the FSA office – Phone: 785-524-4855.

Updates on Disaster Programs

Under the 2008 Farm Law, five new disaster programs were created. These include the (1) Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE); (2) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); (3) Tree Assistance Program (TAP); (4) Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and (5) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

To be eligible for SURE, ELAP, and TAP, producers must purchase at least the "catastrophic" (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and obtain Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops unless the crops are "de minimis" (not of economic significance). LIP is exempt from the CAT/NAP requirements, and the CAT/NAP criteria only apply to grazing crops/land for LFP benefits.

Handbook procedure is still being developed for these programs, but all eligible livestock/animal losses will fall under either LIP or ELAP. These programs are very similar and designed to compensate eligible livestock producers who experience excessive death losses due to adverse weather or related conditions. To obtain benefits, producers must provide acceptable documentation of livestock inventories and death. **A LIP signup period begins on July 13 and ends SEPTEMBER 13, 2009.** During that period, producers must submit notices of loss and applications for payment for 2008. Also, all 2009 livestock losses through July 12 must be documented. Contact FSA for more information.

2009-Crop Commodity Loans

Warehouse- or farm-stored commodity loans offer low interest rates for up to nine months following the month of loan approval. The loans can be repaid at any time, without penalty, during the loan period. Some changes have been made to loan rates and the repayment provisions. Lincoln County loan rates are \$2.65/bu for wheat, \$1.96/bu for corn, \$3.36/cwt for grain sorghum (milo), \$4.85/bu for soybeans, \$9.66/cwt for sunflowers, \$1.37/bu for oats, and \$1.75/bu for barley.

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