



From the State Executive Director

May 2011



Spring is finally here and everybody is very busy trying to catch up on the work. I do hope that you will have the time to read this newsletter because we at FSA are making some important changes. Your Farm Service Agency is doing its part in trying to reduce the federal deficit. We are looking at every aspect of how we conduct business with you. We are reducing expenses wherever we can without negatively affecting our ability to provide services to producers as required by Congress.

In an effort to reduce operating costs, we are reducing postage expenses as much as possible. This includes limiting the number of newsletters mailed to operators and owners. This may be the last statewide newsletter you receive for a few months. Acreage reporting maps will no longer be mailed out. You need to pick them up at the county office or receive them electronically. Maps may be provided to you on CD, USB device or by email. This requires a little extra effort for maintaining computer system integrity at USDA but the technology is there and producers want it.

We are also making an effort to collect email addresses of owners and operators. Like other agriculture businesses today, FSA is trying to use email notification to email pertinent information such as deadlines, reminders, and newsletters. Producers will be able to access other USDA information as desired. Many people have smart phones and can't wait for this to happen. So I ask for your support and assistance to get the email information. Rest assured, email addresses are treated as personally identifiable information (PII) and are confidential at FSA.

Be safe and have a prosperous year!

Aaron Krauter

Important Dates to Remember

- June 1**
 - DCP/ACRE Signup deadline
- June 15**
 - County Committee nomination period begins
- July 15**
 - Acreage Reporting Deadline
 - ACRE Production Evidence due
- July 29**
 - 2009 SURE Deadline
- August 1**
 - Last day to file County Committee nomination forms
 - 2011 Land and ownership changes due
- November 4**
 - County Committee ballots mailed to eligible voters
- December 5**
 - Last day to return completed ballots

County Committee Elections

FSA's annual county committee election process begins on June 15 with the start of the committee nomination period.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments; conservation programs; Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and emergency programs.

Committees are comprised of 3-5 members each from a different geographical area called a Local Administrative Area. One committee member is selected from each LAA and serves

a 3 year term. Generally only one LAA election is conducted each year.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. The nominee must reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction.

Ballots will be mailed to voters by November 4, 2011, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 5, 2011. Eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office before the final date to return ballots if they do not receive a ballot.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or your local USDA Service Center.

DCP/ACRE Fruit and Vegetable Plantings

Producers with plans for fruit and vegetable (FAV) plantings in 2011 need to be aware of the FAV planting restrictions that apply on base acreage. When planting FAV's, producers have the following options:

1. Plant FAVs on a participating farm's "free acres".
2. Plant FAVs on base acreage of a participating farm that has a farm FAV history and take an acre-for-acre reduction in the DCP/ACRE payment. NOTE: Farm FAV history is based on the FAV planting history for 1991-1995 or 1998-2001.
3. Plant FAVs on base acreage of a participating farm without farm FAV history, using the producer's FAV history and take an acre-for-acre reduction in DCP / ACRE payment. NOTE: Producer FAV history is based on the planting history the producer has of each specific FAV crop.
4. Plant FAVs on a nonparticipating farm.

Dry peas, lentils and garbanzo beans are exempted from the FAV restriction.

2011 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2011 DCP or ACRE payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits under the SURE program, all crops in all counties must be

reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed.

The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Producers are reminded that 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.

Prevented Planting

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

2010 Crop Commodity Loan and LDP Deadline

Producers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2010 crops are reminded that May 31, 2011 is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2010 crops: corn dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflowers. To be eligible for a loan, a producer must have complied with the annual program requirements for the farm that produced the crop, maintain beneficial interest in the commodity, and not have a delinquent federal nontax debt.