



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

October 2007

USDA Polls Cotton Producers on Program Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that beginning September 4, 2007, and continuing through Nov. 30, 2007, cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. Cotton producers may submit their requests at local FSA service centers. FSA is polling cotton producers on behalf of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

In 1991, USDA amended the Cotton Research and Promotion Order (the Order) by instituting non-refundable assessments on all U.S. Upland cotton and authorized the collection of assessments on imported cotton and imported cotton textiles. The Order implements the 1966 Cotton Research and Promotion Act (the Act). As required by the Act, USDA reviewed the Cotton Research and Promotion Program to determine whether a referendum on continuing these amendments was needed. USDA published a decision in the March 6, 2007, Federal Register, stating that a referendum was unnecessary. Accordingly the Act requires such a decision to be followed with an opportunity for cotton producers and importers to request a referendum.

To hold a referendum, 10 percent of the cotton producers who voted in the last referendum, or 4,622 producers, would have to request a referendum. No more than 20 percent of all requests can come from one state or from importers.

Producers should make requests in the FSA service center that services the county where the producer owns or rents land. If the producer owns or rents land in more than one county, the producer should make requests to their “control” FSA service center. No action is necessary if a referendum is not desired.

For more information about the Cotton Research and Promotion Program, visit:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/r&pguide.htm>

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USDA Polls Cotton Producers on Program Referendum (Continued)

Producers can signup to request a referendum on the 1991 Order amendments. If 10% sign up, then a referendum will be held in the next 12 months. The referendum would then be conducted with a “Yes” or “No” vote to see if the Cotton Board should continue to collect a research and promotion fee among other things.

No action is necessary by the producer if a continuance referendum is not desired.

The signup period:

- September 4, 2007 – November 30, 2007
- Will be held at the FSA county offices

FSA will assist in conducting the signup period by:

- Accepting request of cotton producer for a signup
- Determining eligibility of cotton producers to file a request
- Determining and reporting signup results

Persons eligible to signup (in general not inclusive):

- Must have been engaged in the production of UPCN in crop year 2006
- 18 yrs or older
- A person or entity
- Ptsp is not eligible to signup but members are
- Can only enroll in one county
- FSA-211 or proxy is not acceptable.

2006 Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Rice Final Counter-Cyclical Payments

Strong 2006-crop markets for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and rice caused the effective prices of each crop to exceed their respective target price. Therefore, CCC will not issue any 2006 counter-cyclical payments for these crops.

2006 Upland Cotton and Peanut Counter-Cyclical Payments

County Offices are in the process of issuing final 2006 upland cotton and peanut counter-cyclical payments. The payment rate is the maximum allowed for both crops. The rates are:

	Total	Advances	Balance Remaining
UPCN	\$. 01373 per pound	\$. 0961 per pound	\$. 0.412 per pound
Peanuts	\$104.00 per short ton	\$72.80 per short ton	\$ 31.20 per short ton

Producers who accepted the two partial payments will only receive the balance listed. Producers who declined the advances will receive the total listed.

NAP

County Offices shall ensure 2008 application closing dates are publicized in accordance with provisions of 1-NAP (Rev. 1), paragraph 23D.

November 20, 2007 Apples- PR, FH, Blueberries- FH, Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries)-FH, Figs- FH, Grapes- FH, Peaches- FH, PR, and Pears-FH

December 1, 2007 Forage and Grazing – Alfalfa, Bahia, Bermuda Coastal, Bermuda Common, Bermuda Hybrid, Bluestem Old World, Fescue Red, Fescue Tall, Lovegrass, Mixed Forage, Native Interseeded, Orchard Grass, Rye, Annual, Sm. Grain Interseeded, Sudangrass, Fescue Tall –seed

Honey

County Offices shall ensure 2008 Acreage Reporting Date is publicized.

November 1, 2007 Greens (Fall Planted) – COL, HYB, TUR, LEF (all varieties)

December 15, 2007 Annual Crops: WTR Oats, SRW Wheat.
Forage Crops: Small Grains – Grazing
Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats

Mechanically Harvested, Small Grains (Hay) -
Forage Wheat (SRW), Rye, Barley (WTR), Oats (WTR)