



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

November 2007

COTTON PRODUCERS POLLED

Cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program through November 30, 2007. To hold a referendum, 10 percent of the cotton producers who voted in the last referendum, 4,622 producers, need 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: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/r&pguide.htm>.

PREVENTED PLANTED PROVISIONS

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to disaster-related conditions. To be considered timely filed, prevented planted acres should be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date established by Federal Crop Insurance. Final planting date for Wheat is November 30, 2007 so the final date to report prevented planted Wheat is December 15, 2007. County Committee review and action are required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

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2005, 2006, 2007 CROP DIASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP signup for quantity losses began October 15, 2007. Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 can only receive benefits for the most beneficial year. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. For more information contact the Farm Service Agency office.

WETLAND POINTS SYMBOLOGY & DISCLAIMER ON COMMON LAND UNIT (CLU) MAPS

FSA and NRCS National Offices collaboratively have decided that the wetland symbol legend of a "blue dot" that is currently being used on FSA digital maps may be confusing and needs to be revised. FSA digital map legends will be revised to the following:

- A Red Octagon – "Restricted Use"
- Upside-Down Yellow Triangle – "Limited Restrictions"
- Green Square – "Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions"
- Contain the following disclaimer – "Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-1026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS."

A complete fact sheet of the subject including the URL of a power point presentation can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets> under "Wetland Determination Identifier".

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DCP/eLDP

FSA has the ability to establish a representative role for an individual to submit electronic eLDP and DCP applications on behalf of an owner or producer. The individual entitled to act for the owner or producer must have an unlimited power of attorney on file with the Farm Service Agency. Producers or individuals having unlimited power of attorney can request eLDP/DCP access at their local FSA office

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures and FAXED forms contact your local FSA office.

2007 FINAL DIRECT PAYMENTS

County Offices are currently issuing 2007 Final Direct Payment at the following rates: The 78% Final Rate applies if the producer received the 22% advance payment. If the producer chose not to receive the advance, then the Payment Rate is applicable.

Crop	Payment Rate	22% Advance Rate	78% Final Rate
Wheat (bu)	\$0.52	\$0.1144	\$0.4056
Corn (bu)	\$0.28	\$0.0616	\$0.2184
Grain Sorghum (bu)	\$0.35	\$0.077	\$0.273
Oats (bu)	\$0.024	\$0.00528	\$0.01872
Upland Cotton (lbs)	\$0.0667	\$0.014674	\$0.052026
Rice (lbs)	\$0.0235	\$0.00517	\$0.01833
Soybeans (bu)	\$0.44	\$0.0968	\$0.3432
Peanuts (lbs)	\$0.018	\$0.00396	\$0.01404

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

Crop	Final Date To Obtain NAP Coverage
Apples, fresh and processed	November 20, 2007
Blueberries	
Caneberries (blackberries and raspberries)	
Figs	
Grapes, fresh and processed	
Peaches, fresh and processed	
Pears	

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 8 Columbus Day Holiday
- Oct 15 CDP Sign-up begins
- Nov. 2 County committee ballots mailed to voters
- Nov. 12 Veterans Day Holiday
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Dec. 3 Last day to return county committee election ballots