

What's News in FSA

June 2009

USDA Farm Service Agency

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County Committee

Crystal VanderZanden, Chairperson
Tom Duyck, Vice-Chairperson
Jeffrey VanNatta, Regular Member

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

ACRE is a component of the Farm Bill safety net that protects against crop revenue shortfall resulting from price and/or production declines at the state and farm level. A farm must have base acres to be eligible. All producers (operator and owners) on a farm must agree to participate in ACRE and file an election form. Once the decision has been made to participate in ACRE, it is irrevocable. By enrolling a farm in ACRE that farm is no longer eligible for counter-cyclical payments, a 20% reduction in direct payments will apply and a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates will apply. Payments are based on crops planted on the farm, not base acres, but the planted acres in which payment is calculated cannot exceed the total base acres on the farm. If enrolled in ACRE, five years of production data must be provided to establish a crop history and annual submission of production records are required.

Farms enrolled in ACRE may receive two types of payments: direct payments and ACRE payments. For an ACRE payment to be made, two triggers must be met. 1. The State Acre Guarantee must exceed the Actual State Revenue, 2. The Farm Acre Benchmark Revenue must exceed Actual Farm Revenue. If these two triggers are met, the ACRE payment is calculated using the following calculation:

83.3% of the farms planted/considered planted acres for 2009-11; 85% in 2012 times (farm's expected yield divided by State benchmark yield) times lesser of (State ACRE Guarantee minus Actual State Revenue) or (State ACRE Guarantee times 25%)

DCP Signup Underway

The 2008 Farm Bill has reauthorized the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) through 2012. Signup has started for the 2009 DCP Program for farms with base acres. There are some new requirements this year to determine eligibility and payment limitation. With all new forms, signup will take longer than in years past. **Please contact your local FSA office to set up an appointment.** The deadline to sign-up for the 2009 DCP Program has been extended to **August 14**. There is no late file signup.

Acreage Reports Due

Producers are reminded that acreage reports (FSA-578's) are due **June 30, 2009**. The Hillsboro FSA office is currently taking appointments for acreage reporting. All producers who participate in USDA programs (CRP, NAP, DCP, etc.) or have Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) are required to submit an acreage report by the reporting deadline. Failure to do so will result in non-compliance for USDA programs and benefits. Please contact the Hillsboro FSA office at 503-648-3174 x 2 to make an appointment.

Non-insurable Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

Producers are reminded to submit a notice of loss (FSA-576) after any natural weather event which may affect the production for their crops. Failure to file a notice of loss within 15 days of when the loss was apparent will result in you not being eligible for assistance.

NAP production (production from crops covered under the Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program) must be submitted each year by the production reporting date, of June 30th. For fruit crops, please turn in final pool closing or distribution statements. This production evidence is a requirement of the NAP program and is necessary to compute the producer's Actual Production History (APH). The APH is the approved yield used for NAP benefits and in all disaster programs. Failure to submit timely records may result in a reduced yield, which will decrease possible program benefits. Please turn in your 2008 production (or previous production as well if you haven't been "keeping up"). These records are essential for current and future disaster assistance programs. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy at 503-648-3174 x105.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call Gail Stinnett at 503-648-3174 x 106.

County Committee Elections

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year LAA 13 is up for election. LAA 13 is the east side of Washington County. The dividing line runs north and south along the following roads: SW Campbell Rd, SW Hillsboro Hwy, NW Hobbs Rd, NW Susbauer Rd, NW Glencoe Rd, NW Shadybrook Rd, NW Dixie Mountain Rd. Producers who are residents in this LAA and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-699A, is available at the Washington County FSA Office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the Washington County FSA Office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

If you would like to learn more, we are hosting an informational meeting at two different times for your convenience. June 18 at 2:00pm and July 15th at 10:00am, just come to the Hillsboro FSA Office.

Dates to Remember

June 30 – 2008 NAP Deadline,
Crop Acreage Report Deadline
July 3 – Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)
August 3 – Last day to submit nomination form for
FSA County Committee Election
August 14 – Last day to sign up for DCP or ACRE
Program

Primary Nesting Season runs March 1 – July 15

May was Pacific Islander Month
June is Men's Health Month
August 26th is Women's Equality Day

Farm Loan Programs

Our Farm Loan Programs staff is committed to our customers, their goals, and our communities. Our service extends beyond the typical loan, offering our customers ongoing consultation, advice, and creative ways to make their farm businesses thrive. At the Farm Service Agency, we are the lender of first opportunity because we provide agriculture producers who need assistance with an entry into agriculture production. 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

For more information, please contact Suzanne Hayes at 503-648-3174 ext 116.

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