



Greenwood/Elk County Farm Service Agency

April 2011

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ENDS APRIL 15, 2011

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup period will end April 15, 2011. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. If you are interested **contact your Farm Service Agency Office for an appointment to discuss your needs.**

2011 DCP SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% are available. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. **Please call for an appointment when you are ready to sign up in DCP.**

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

THE ACRE OPTION

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

FSA administers several programs that may be available to assist livestock producers who are dealing with problems caused by adverse weather events and natural disasters. Producers need to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of these weather events (snowstorms, lightning, floods, extreme heat, tornadoes, etc).

Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)). For livestock death losses to be eligible under LIP, producers must file a notice of loss with their local FSA office **within 30 calendar days** from when the loss is apparent to the producer.

2009 SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began January 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008-2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

REPORT 2011 WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS AND RYE BY MAY 31, 2011 (PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT)

Producers who plant 2011 wheat, barley, oats or rye, are reminded to report those acres to the FSA office. The final day to report small grain acreages is **May 31, 2011**. Planting dates will be needed when acres are being reported. Annual acreage reports are required for most FSA programs.

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is an ongoing program to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the CCRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50% on approved practices as well as signing and practice incentive payments. Practices included under the CCRP are filter strips, field borders, waterways and contour grass strips.

REMEMBER HAY NET

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the recent wintry conditions. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI)

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and /or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or [online](http://foms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainiservlet) at <http://foms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainiservlet>.

ACTIVELY ENGAGED RULES

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

Dates to Remember	
Date	What
04/15/2011	Last day for prescribed burning on CRP
05/30/2011	Memorial Day – All USDA offices closed
05/31/2011	Deadline to Certify 2011 Small Grain Acres
06/01/2011	Deadline to Sign up in DCP and/or ACRE
07/29/2011	Deadline to Sign up for 2009 SURE Program
08/01/2011	Deadline to Certify Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans and other cropland uses