



April 2012

**Branch Co. FSA Office**  
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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Staff**  
Hope Gentile,  
County Executive Director

Program Technicians  
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**Farm Loan Staff**  
Russ Lafollete,  
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### Dates to Remember

6/1- 2012 DCP/ACRE signup ends  
2010 SURE signup ends  
6/20-Final date to file prevented  
planted for corn  
6/30-Final date to file prevented  
planted for soybeans  
-Final Date to report fall  
seeded small grains  
7/15-Final date to report all  
other crops

**Continues** – Farm Storage  
Facility Loans

**Continues** – Continuous  
Conservation Reserve Program  
& CRP-SAFE

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began Jan. 23, 2012 and will end **June 1, 2012**. Here are some **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
  - Ownership changes
  - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after **Sept. 30, 2012**.

### DCP/ACRE Cash Lease Requirements

All leases provided to FSA must include the following information:

1. Type of lease;
2. Length of lease;
3. Landowner and operator names printed, signatures, and date.

## FSA Adopting GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. **These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.** Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

***NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.***

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with **90** days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses runs through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## NEW Crop Reporting Dates

To better align with crop insurance reporting deadlines, FSA is changing some of the acreage reporting dates. All 2013 crop year forage and fall-seeded small grains will need to be reported to FSA by November 15, 2012.

## Prevented Planted Acreage for 2012

Prevented planted acreage must be filed within 15 days of the final planting date.

Crop	Final Planting Date	Deadline to File Prevented Planting
Corn	June 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 20 <sup>th</sup>
Soybeans	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	June 30 <sup>th</sup>
Wheat (2013 crop)	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	November 5 <sup>th</sup>

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. For timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA office if the account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, contact any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program, Farm Storage Facility Loan, & Adjusted Gross Income documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff.

## Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

## Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres

DCP/ACRE participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as “contract acres” must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed.

## 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. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.