



HOLT COUNTY NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

July 2009

DCP & ACRE Sign-up Deadline-August 14

Holt County FSA

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Office Hours

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

County Committee

Karl Noellsch
Kirby Rosier
Karen Ingram

County Executive Director

Jackie J VanGundy

Office Staff

Kami Hubach, PT
Kim Meyer, PT
Wendy Tubbs, PT
Marci Geib, temp

Fieldmen

Mark Buntz, FA
Stan Seitz, FA

Farm Loan

Bob Dreyer, FLM
Roger Uptergrove, FLO
Tuesday mornings

District Director

Jim Nance

Sign-up for the 2009 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and ACRE enrollment have been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will **not** accept any late filed applications after that date. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Average Crop Revenue Election

The ACRE program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net available through Counter Cyclical options of DCP. Many producers are uncertain of what ACRE is all about, not to mention whether or not it is a good option for their operation.

ACRE works differently than programs authorized by previous farm bills. For one thing, FSA cannot tell you what your payment will be.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to: forego counter-cyclical payments, accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments, and accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which **irrevocably** elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. The contract to participate in ACRE must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Acres payments are made when **both** state and farm-level triggers are met. It is important to make an informed decision regarding your DCP or ACRE program election. The choice to participate in ACRE is one that **only** you can make. Signatures from all owners and operators on the farm will have to be received in the office by the August 14 deadline.

In-depth comparison information is available at the following USDA website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. FAPRI also has a calculator available for download on their website: fapri.missouri.edu



Crop Reporting

Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP ACRE, SURE, CRP, NAP or to apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs.

When you report your Crop Acreage you must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline for all crops and CRP acreage has been extended, this year **only**, to **August 14, 2009**.

You will need to know your planting dates when you report. Your reported acres to crop insurance should match FSA's. Acreage reported after Aug 14 will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (min \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

You must report your intended use of insured NAP crops the earlier of 15 days before normal harvest of the crop or its final reporting date.

Production evidence for insured NAP crops must also be provided every year by the final acreage reporting deadline for the crop.



Prevented Planting & Failed Acres

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date and you **must** provide proof of your intent to plant. Final planting dates are June 5th for Corn and June 20th for Soybeans.

Reports of failed acreage must be filed **before** disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted because of natural disaster conditions and not a management decision.

For 2009 only, FSA may accept requests for preventive planting & failed acreage as timely filed if received by August 14.

Farm Loans

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth loans, loans to beginning farmers, and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants, are also available through FSA.



Foreign Landowner 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.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

CRP Management Reminder

CRP Producers are reminded that the nondisturbance period to protect the habitat of ground nesting birds began May 1 and extends through July 15. **This means that no activity can be conducted on CRP during this time period including mowing, weed control, and management practices.** If there is a severe noxious weed problem in the field, producers can request approval from the County Committee to spot treat. As of July 16, permitted activity resumed.

Certain CRP acreages can be hayed or grazed every third year by filing a request at the FSA office prior to haying or grazing and paying 25% of the CRP rental rate fee.

If you participated in the Critical Use Feed Program in 2008, you are restricted from haying or grazing any acreage in that field or at a minimum twice the acreage actually hayed or grazed for the standard three year period.

CRP Mid-Contract Management Practices that began on July 16 include prescribed burns, chemical application, or light disking per your management plan.

Please contact the office if you have any questions concerning management and operation of your CRP acreage.

2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, loans etc for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Selections are based on producer's participation in CRP, DCP, MAL, LDP programs etc.

County Committee Elections

County Committee's play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA County Committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 3 deadline.

For election purposes, counties are divided into Local Administrative Areas (LAA). Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election each year. In Holt County this year the election will be in LAA 1, consisting of the townships of Lincoln, Liberty, Clay & Union. Kirby Rosier is the current FSA Committee representative from that area.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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 County Office by the close of business on Aug 3 or postmarked by this date.

Record Changes

If you have recently bought, sold, or are renting different land, or even if you have switched bank accounts, make sure and report any and all of these changes to FSA as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract to verify proof of ownership. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have or accounts that you use with the agency could lead to possible program ineligibility, delays in payments or loss of benefits if you are a program participant.

Successor in Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

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Farm Service Agency
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Official Business



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the 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 our office. Contact any FSA office near you for more information.

Dates to Remember

August 1

Last day to request recon for 2009

August 3

COC nomination forms due

August 14

Crop reporting deadline

August 14

ACRE signup deadline

August 14

DCP signup deadline

September 7

Office closed for Labor Day

September 30

CRP Management practices completion deadline

Ongoing

- ◆ Continuous CRP
- ◆ Update Farm Changes
- ◆ Farm Facility Loans
- ◆ Monitor Stored Grain Condition

New State Director Named for FSA

USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, announced July 2, 2009 that Edward J Hamill will serve as Missouri State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency.

Mr. Hamill has been the Ralls County Executive Director for FSA since 1979. In this position, he has delivered major farm bill legislation to Ralls County Farmers and Landowners. He has managed the County FSA staff and worked with the County Committee to implement programs. He has also been a FSA management trainer since the 1990's, providing training to candidates for CED positions across the State.

Mr. Hamill has a solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities. His background, knowledge and experience are the qualities needed to lead the Agency and represent our State.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm commodity storage facilities. Seven year loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A lien on the real estate on which the farm storage facility is located will be required on loans exceeding \$50,000. A minimum down payment is also required. July Int is 3.25%. (Info on the new farm bill specs is still pending-watch next newsletter)

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