

# Eddy County News

June 2009

## Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

USDA has announced sign up for the new ACRE program. The ACRE program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net. 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 calculations can appear daunting and are contingent upon six variables; three of which will not be known until after you have made your election decision. And if your decision is to participate in ACRE, you live with it through the 2012 program year. This includes a 20 percent reduction in your direct payments, a 30 percent reduction in marketing loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

So what about that ACRE program? Why would anyone give up benefits in the other programs?

ACRE provides revenue protection when national average prices and/or state and farm yields cause revenue to fall below established benchmarks. It is possible that no payments will be issued to ACRE participants. However, it is also possible that ACRE payments will be issued, and those payments could exceed the reductions.

ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. 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.

The choice to participate in ACRE is one that only you can make, and it is important to make an informed decision. The Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) has a calculator available

for download on their website, [fapri.missouri.edu](http://fapri.missouri.edu). In addition to FAPRI, other universities and organizations also have calculators available.

ACRE signup is now available at FSA county offices. The deadline for BOTH the 2009 ACRE election/enrollment and the 2009 DCP sign-up is August 14, 2009. If you have already enrolled in DCP for 2009, you may still elect and enroll in ACRE for 2009. Or if you have not decided about ACRE, you can sign up for DCP now, receive the 22 percent advance on your direct payment, and still elect and enroll in ACRE, prior to August 14.

What's up with that ACRE program?

### Eddy County FSA

114 S. Halagueno, Rm 117 PO Box 278 Carlsbad, NM 88221-0278 575-887-3506 ext. 2 (phone)575-887-5700 (fax)

### Hours

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.—4:30 pm.

### County Committee

Sharon Gioveno,

Chairperson

Lex Klein, Vice Chairperson  
Curtis Doyal, Member

COC Meets the Wednesday of the third full week of the month at 1:00 pm.

### Staff

Jodie Chism, CED  
Angela Sparks, PT

### Crop Reporting Deadlines

Small Grains May 15

All other crops July 15

Crops with NAP Coverage Report the earlier of:

- ◆ 15 days prior to harvest
- ◆ Crop reporting deadline

## USDA Extends Sign-up Deadline to August 14th for DCP & ACRE

USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

Extending the sign-up deadline for

both these programs ensures that America's farmers have enough information and time needed to determine if ACRE

is the right program for their operational needs. The DCP and ACRE programs play a critical role in the farm safety net and it is vital that we act to support the hard work of the farmers on which we depend.



Sign-up for ACRE began April 27th. Producers can now elect ACRE at their FSA county office. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

## Acreage Reporting—it's a must!

### Special Accommodations

will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local FSA County office.

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, prevented planting acreage and CRP, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency pro-



reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops. Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

**Failed acreage** must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. **Prevented planting** must be reported no later than 15 days after the crops final planting

grams. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage

NAP Information: Producers with NAP insurance may obtain the new basic provisions, CCC-47BP and NAP Fact Sheet from the FSA



## Livestock Disaster Program Requires

*Losses because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, are eligible for LIP.*

webpage at [www.fsa.gov](http://www.fsa.gov) or

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. *Losses because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, are eligible for LIP.*

Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Producers must file their LIP applications before County Offices can accept death loss documentations.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available. A third party statement is an independent source who is not affiliated with the farming operation, such as a hired hand or a family member.

Your local FSA county office can provide you with a list of acceptable proof of death, producer records and verifiable inventory documentation.

We're on the Web!  
www.fsa.usda.gov

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## 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.



## 2009 FSA County Committee Elections

### Prevented planting or Failed Acreage

To ensure program eligibility, report prevented and/or failed crop acreage to FSA.

Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.

Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop.

June 15 is the beginning of the nomination period for the FSA County Committee (COC) election. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign a nomination form FSA-669A. This form is available at USDA Service Centers or online at



fsa.usda.gov and producers can use it to nominate themselves or another eligible producer. For 2009, nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 3, 2009.

Committees are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on COC's help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their county. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Local Administrative Area 1, (LAA-1) which is northern Eddy County (Hope, Artesia) is up for election this year. Lex Klein is currently repre-

**“COC members work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers”**

senting this area.

United States Department of  
Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
Eddy County  
PO BOX 278  
Carlsbad, NM 88221-0278

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Albuquerque  
Permit #470

Official Business

**June 2009**

**Eddy County NEWS**

### *Important Dates*

- √ **June 15** COC Nominations Open
- √ **July 4** Independence Day - FSA offices closed
- √ **July 15** Final crop reporting date for all other crops, except small grain and value loss crops
- √ **August 3** Final date to file COC nomination forms at County Offices
- √ **August 14** ACRE and DCP Sign up Deadline
- √ **Sept 1** Final date to apply for coverage under NAP for Sodgrass, Onions, Garlic
- √ **Sept 30** Final date to apply for coverage under NAP for 2010 on Barley, Canola, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat
- √ **Nov 20** Final date to apply for coverage under NAP for 2010 on Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Caneberries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Pistachios, and Plums
- √ **Dec 1** Final date to apply for coverage under NAP for 2010 on Honey, Lettuce