



April 2009

Goshen County News

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2009 DCP/ACRE Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program has been extended through August 14, 2009. This recent announcement was made to allow producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

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 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments.

ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program from the program year elected by the producer through the 2012 crop year. For more details contact your local FSA office.

No signup date for ACRE has been announced. We will advertise this signup as details are made available.

Banking Changes

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Continuous CRP Available

At this time USDA has no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. However, Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Fruit/Vegetable Plantings

The 2008 Farm Bill continues to have the same limitations on Fruit & Vegetable (FAV) plantings as the last few farm bills did. Applicable FAV's include dry beans, potatoes, onions, and grapes. We suggest that if you are planning on planting any FAV's on a farm that will be enrolled in DCP for 2009, to address your intentions with this office and we can estimate if and how this would affect your payments.

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Expiring CRP Workshops

Nebraska FSA and NRCS will be holding 2 workshops addressing expiring CRP Contract options this month:

- April 22, 2009 at the Kimball Event Center, located at 615 East 3rd St. in Kimball; 9:00 am – Noon.
- April 23, 2009 at the Rushville American Legion, located at 206 Sprague in Rushville; 9:00 am – Noon.

Subjects that will be covered include:

- Re-enrollment in continuous CRP (field windbreaks, cross wind trap strips, etc.)
- Development of haying/grazing land
- EQIP availability
- Conservation compliance requirements
- Conversion to cropland

Acreage Reporting

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

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 final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. In Wyoming, the deadline to report all crops is July 1. Crops can be reported as soon as all planting is completed. This means that if you only have winter wheat, perennial crops (hay, grass, etc.), CRP, or a combination of these, you can complete your 2009 acreage report.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.** This means that 2008 production records must be submitted by July 1, 2009. For more information, contact this office.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

CRP Requirements and Reminders

CRP participants are obligated to maintain established cover. The annual rental payment includes a maintenance fee (\$5.00 in Wyoming) for this purpose. Participants shall ensure:

- Adequate approved vegetative cover is maintained to control erosion for the period of the contract.
- Compliance with state and local noxious weed laws. If any noxious weeds are found on CRP, you will be referred to the local weed and pest officials to draw up a plan for weed control.
- Control of other weeds as determined by the County Committee.
- That undesirable vegetation, weeds, insects, rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area are controlled.
- An annual acreage report must be filed to confirm the acres are still being maintained as CRP.

FSA conducts periodic spot checks on CRP to confirm program compliance. Your neighbor also watches, so it is in your best interest to keep on top of things.

Several CRP contracts contain an annual requirement for clipping or light disking 25-35% on fields on a rotational basis. The Goshen County FSA Committee has a policy that this practice must be completed by September 30 each year. We will be randomly checking these contracts to verify compliance. Things to keep in mind concerning this requirement:

- This practice cannot be done between the primary nesting season dates of May 15-July 15.
- We request that you inform this office when the practice is done so we can track completion.
- This requirement is on a per field basis, not on a contract basis. If there are multiple fields in a contract, each field stands on its own.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
 1441 EAST M.ST. SUITE C
 TORRINGTON WY 82240

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
May 31, 2009	Final date to apply for a loan on 2008 corn/sunflowers
July 1, 2009	Final date to timely file 2009 acreage report
July 1, 2009	Final date to timely submit 2008 production for NAP APH purposes
Aug. 14, 2009	Final date to apply for 2009 DCP/ACRE benefits

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