



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

April 2012

ACREAGE REPORTS

May 15, 2012, is the final acreage reporting deadline for wheat and oats. Producers shall also report spring seeded crops as soon as planting is completed, no later than July 15, 2012.

Many FSA programs require all cropland on a farm be reported, including idle acreage in order to earn FSA benefits.

FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS

To be timely filed. Producers should report failed crop acres to their local FSA Office **before destroying the crop** when the crop failed due to disaster related conditions. County Committee review and action is required on failed crop acres to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules, and regulations.

PREVENTED PLANTED PROVISIONS

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to disaster-related conditions. To be considered timely filed, **prevented planted acres should be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date established by Federal Crop Insurance**. Final planting dates are provided in this SCOOP titled “Program Deadlines”.

60 DAY NOTICE

Remain For:

2012 DCP and ACRE

And 2010 SURE SIGNUPS

There are approximately only 60 days left before the June 1, 2012 deadline to enroll in the 2012 DCP and ACRE Programs and the 2010 SURE Program. Help FSA help you. Avoid long lines and delays, make your appointment now. You are reminded that for the DCP and ACRE Programs supporting documents such as the CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan, AD-1026, Conservation Compliance Plan, and CCC-931 Adjusted Gross Income Form can be submitted after June 1.

RECONSTITUTION OF FARMS AFFECT DCP OR ACRE ENROLLMENT

If a farm has an active DCP or ACRE contract and it is reconstituted in the same participation year by either a farm division or farm combination, the DCP or ACRE contract will be terminated . In order for the newly reconstituted land to be eligible for DCP or ACRE payments, the resulting farm(s) must be **enrolled by the later of June 1, 2012, or 30 calendar days after notification of the new bases and yields.**

EXPIRING, VOLUNTARILY TERMINATING, OR RELEASING CRP CONTRACTS COULD INCREASE DCP OR ACRE PAYMENTS

Farms with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that will expire, voluntarily terminated, or early released after September 30, 2008 and before October 1, 2012 may be eligible to have reduced acres restored to be enrolled in the DCP or ACRE Program. Throughout different farm bills, reduction of base and or Production Flexibility (PFC) acres was required in some situations upon enrollment into the CRP Program. The 2008 Farm Bill allows for restoration of these acres as base acres for the DCP or ACRE Program. Producers with acreage coming out of the CRP Program should visit their local FSA Office to determine eligibility. Producers are reminded that June 1, 2012 is the deadline to have all acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE for 2012, including any restored acres.

PLANTING FLEXIBILITY

Any commodity may be planted on the following:

Planting Flexibility continued

- any land, including base acres, on a farm NOT enrolled in a DCP contract
- non base acres of a farm enrolled in a DCP contract
- base acres of a farm enrolled in a DCP contract, except for fruits, vegetables and wild rice Check with your local office to see if you or your farm qualifies for allowable exceptions.

PLANTING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FAV's) OR WILD RICE

If you or your farm qualifies to have FAV's or wild rice planted, you are reminded, to check with your local FSA office to determine the number of acres that are eligible on your farm to be planted to FAV's or wild rice. We often find that producers are not advising FSA of changes in available land, such as a sale of land, until after the FAV's or wild rice has been planted and or harvested. Unfortunately, some producers have had large penalties enforced for planting to many acres of FAV's or wild rice. **Do not let this happen to you.**

PARTICIPATION IN BOTH FARM PROGRAMS AND FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Producers and lenders are being reminded that FSA must ensure that producers consistently participate in Farm Loan Programs and Farm Programs, such as but not limited to DCP, LDP's, and CRP. For example: If FSA Farm Loan Program approves a loan for an individual to produce crops on FSN 100, then the applicable DCP payments must reflect that he is receiving payments as an individual and not as a corporation, partnership, or other. Producers are also reminded, although FSA is monitoring both Farm Loans and Farm Programs for consistency, farm producers are the ones that must comply with all FSA programs.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

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| <u>Final</u> date to inform FSA of crop losses | Before Crop Disposition |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Corn | May 10, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> Date to report 2012 wheat and oats planted acreage | May 15, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Grain Sorghum | May 30, 2012 |
| 2011 Final Marketing Assistance Loan Availability Dates Rice, Upland Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans | May 31, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file a 2012 Acre Election <u>Final</u> date to have all signatures on an ACRE Election | June 1, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file a 2012 DCP and/or ACRE (yearly) enrollment <u>Final</u> date to return signatures for producers sharing in the DCP and/or ACRE contract | |
| <u>Final</u> date to file a successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred by June 1, 2012 | |
| The date FSA uses to look at the structure of farming operations to calculate direct attributions | June 1, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date for Sign-up for 2010 Losses for the SURE Program | June 1, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Upland Cotton for Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, St. Francis, White, and Woodruff Counties | June 4, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Rice | June 9, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Upland Cotton for Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Lonoke, Miller, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, and Pulaski Counties | June 9, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Peanuts | June 9, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Not Following Another Crop (NFAC) | June 30, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Following Another Crop (FAC) | July 10, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to Report 2012 Spring Seeded Crops | July 15, 2012 |
| <u>Last</u> date to request a 2012 reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm | August 1, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments | September 30, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to file a 2012 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2012 | |
| <u>Final</u> date to return signatures for producers who share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract that had a 2012 successor-in-interest contract filed after June 1, 2012 | |
| <u>Final</u> date to report planted acreage on the following crops: Broccoli, Cabbage (HYB), Carrots (HYB), Lettuce (CRS, LEF), Potatoes (all Varieties), Tomatoes (All Varieties) | May 15, 2012 |
| <u>Final</u> date to report planted acreage on the following crops: Beans-KEB, PLE, BBL, LGL, GRN, PNT, CRA; Cotton; Corn-YEL, SWT; Cantaloupes; Cucumbers-COM, PKL; Eggplant-CHE, EUR; Grain Sorghum; Okra, Onions, Peanuts, Peas, Peppers Pumpkins, Soybeans, Sunflowers, Sweet Potatoes–All varieties; Rice-LGR, MGR, SGR; BIT; Watermelons-COM, JUB, STR, SED,SUG | July 15, 2012 |
| New!!! <u>Final</u> date to report <u>2013</u> planted and prevented planted wheat and oats | December 15, 2012 |

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The Arkansas FSA State Committee would like to remind landowners and producers that a General Sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) begins on March 12, 2012, and **continues through April 6, 2012**. During this sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

When enrolling Land in CRP ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2012, are eligible to make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2012.

FSA will evaluate, and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air, enduring benefits) and a cost factor. The Secretary of Agriculture makes Decisions on the EBI cutoff after the sign-up ends April 6, and after the analyses of all EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to general sign-up, **CRP's continuous sign-up program** will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable, and sensitive land.

For more information about CRP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or your county Farm Service Agency.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Bruce Nelson announced today the application period for the next round of Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Areas.

- **Proposals will be accepted until April 23, 2012.**

“BCAP provides incentives to farmers and forest landowners to grow non-food crops to be processed into biofuels – a critical element of our national energy strategy to address high fuel prices and reduce reliance on foreign oil,” said Nelson. “Because most energy crops are perennial and take time to mature before harvest, BCAP is designed so that sufficient quantities of feedstock will be available to meet future demand. And because these crops can grow where other crops cannot, it provides farmers with new opportunities to diversify into more markets.”

The BCAP Project Areas where these crops are grown will be selected from proposals producers or biomass facilities submit to FSA.

- **Information about submitting a proposal can be found on the www.grants.gov website.**
- **The Request for Proposal and additional information can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap>.**

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Linda Newkirk, State Executive Director
Dianna Shook, Administrative Officer
Tony Franco, Chief, Price Support/Conservation

Sharon Baker, Chief, Prod Adj/Compliance
James Culpepper, Chief, Farm Loans
Phone (501) 301-3000
Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/ar