

May 2012



North Dakota eNews

North Dakota State FSA Office

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State Committee (STC)

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Lynn Jacobson, Member
Marie Marshall, Member
Lucy Matejcek, Member

From the State Executive Director

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is celebrating the United States Department of Agriculture's 150th anniversary. USDA was founded in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Department of Agriculture Act that established the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since the start, USDA has helped support the tremendous growth and success of American agriculture. FSA realizes that farmers and ranchers take risks everyday and FSA is looking forward to continue serving the producers while addressing the changing needs of agriculture and rural America.

As the debate take place in Congress about the 2012 Farm Bill, please do not forget about the current 2008 Farm Bill. Do not forget to sign-up for the 2012 DCP/ACRE program before the **June 1 deadline** if you plan to participate. Even though there is not an advance payment this spring, the final one will come in the fall. Simply put, if you do not sign up there is no payment.

Have a great month of May,
Aaron Krauter,
State Executive Director

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment is available through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in DCP base acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on

the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.

- Advance payments are not authorized in the 2012 DCP/ACRE program, therefore 100% of the farm's direct payment will be issued in October of 2012.

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.

Interested producers must contact their county office for the application to be processed.

For more information on the SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FAV / Wild Rice Exception

Producers may not plant fruits, vegetables (FAVs) or wild rice on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE. However, if the farm has a history of planting FAVs or wild rice or if the producer has a history of planting the specific FAV or wild rice, the FAV or wild rice may be planted on base acres. In such cases, the direct and countercyclical payments shall be reduced acre for acre for each base acre planted to FAVs or wild rice.

DCP FAV Plantings

Producers with plans for fruit and vegetable (FAV's) plantings in 2012 need to be aware of the FAV planting restrictions that apply on base acreage (Dry peas, Lentils and Garbanzo Beans are exempted from the FAV restriction). When planting FAV's, producers have the following options:

1. Plant FAV's on a participating farm's "free acres".
2. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm

that has a farm FAV history and take an acre-for-acre reduction in the DCP payment. NOTE: Farm FAV history is based on the FAV planting history for 1991-1995 or 1998-2001.

3. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm without farm FAV history, using the producer's FAV history and take an acre-for-acre reduction in DCP payment. NOTE: Producer FAV history is based on the planting history the producer has of each specific FAV crop.
4. Plant FAV's on a nonparticipating farm.

2011 Crop Commodity Loan Deadline

Producers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2011 crops are reminded that May 31, 2012 is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2011 crops: corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflowers. To be eligible for a loan, a producer must have complied with the annual program requirements for the farm that produced the crop, maintain beneficial interest in the commodity, and not have a delinquent federal nontax debt.

Crop Year 2012 Loan Rates for Wheat, Feed Grains and Oilseeds

County loan rates for the 2012 crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans and other oilseeds (sunflower seed, flaxseed, canola, rapeseed, safflower, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed). The rates are posted on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport> .

New Common Acreage Reporting Dates for FSA and RMA

For the 2012 crop year, the acreage reporting deadline for both FSA and RMA will be July 15 for the following crops: barley, buckwheat, canola, corn, dry beans, dry peas, flax, forage seeding, grain sorghum, grass seed, millet, mustard, oats potatoes, safflower, soybeans, sugar beets, sunflowers, spring wheat, and all other crops not listed with a November 15 deadline. Beginning with the 2013 crop year, the following crops will have a November 15 reporting deadline for both FSA and RMA purposes: apiculture, perennial forage, PRF, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains. Therefore, a producer planting winter wheat in the fall of 2012 for harvest in 2013, for example, will have to report that acreage to FSA and RMA by November 15, 2012 for the report to be considered timely filed.

2012 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits subject to the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE), all crops in all counties must be reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 16, 2012, as July 15 falls on a Sunday this year. Producers are reminded that 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.

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

Availability of Historic Aerial Photography

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has been collecting aerial photography of the United States for over half a century. These aerial photos were originally collected to support federal farm programs throughout the United States. This historic film is now stored at the USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

USDA aerial photos are high resolution images taken during the growing season and clearly show features such as roads, buildings, vegetation, trees and waterways. Most of these projects covered entire counties over large parts of the U.S. at least once a decade.

These aerial photographs are available to the general public for purchase. The APFO is able to print or digitally scan these photos for public use. Print photos and scans start as low as \$13.00 each. Photos can also be certified for use as evidence in court for a small fee.

People seeking evidence of, or information relating to, historic land use may inquire at their local FSA Service Center. Your local Service Center can provide you with the specific years for which photography is available.

Collecting Race, Ethnicity and Gender Data

Departmental Regulations established policy for collecting race, ethnicity, and gender data for conducting oversight and evaluation of civil rights compliance in programs offered by USDA. Form AD-2106 will be provided to each program participant during signup to collect this data. Even though providing the data is voluntary, FSA encourages participants to complete the form so that FSA can keep our records current.

May Loan and Interest Rates

Operating Loans - 1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - 3.500%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 1.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.375%

Important Dates to Remember

2012 DCP/ACRE Signup – Ends June 1, 2012
2010 SURE Signup – Ends June 1, 2012
2011 ACRE Production Evidence – July 15, 2012
2012 Land and Ownership Changes – August 1, 2012

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).
