



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

April 2009

WHY IS JUNE 1, 2009 IMPORTANT AT FSA

This date is extremely important in many different ways. First, it is FSA ownership interest date, which is similar to a status date. Payment limits for 2009 direct attribution are calculated from the way the farming operation is structured on June 1, 2009. For example, a producer has 50 percent stock in Corporation A on June 1, but sells 25 percent of his share on or after June 2. FSA will still attribute 50 percent of the corporation's payment to the producer for 2009 payment limitation. The sale occurred after June 1 and is not recognized for the 2009 program payments. **This date is NOT expected to be extended.** In summary, producers need to have their farming operations determined and established by June 1. Farming operation structures are reported on FSA form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan, and can be submitted after June 1, 2009.

Second, June 1, 2009 is the deadline to enroll and have all returned signatures for persons sharing in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), election to get into the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, and the yearly enrollment in the ACRE program for 2009. FSA National Office is trying to get the deadline revised. Although an attempt is being made, there is no guarantee this date will be extended. The deadline is in the Federal Regulations and is not a simple extension.

MAY 18, 2009 DEADLINE

2008 CATASTOPHIC RISK PROTECTION (CAT) BUY-IN AUTHORIZED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVER AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)

The ARRA Act of 2009 is giving producers a unique opportunity to pay the applicable administrative fee, which is necessary to receive benefits for 2008 crop losses for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Producers have until May 18, 2009 to report to their local FSA office to buy-in. Producers will be required to pay the applicable fee they would have paid if they had purchased CAT level of Federal Crop Insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. When paying the buy-in fee producers are not getting the insurance protection, because the deadline for insurance has passed, but if other eligibility requirements are met, it could allow disaster assistance benefits. For crops covered by FCIC the disaster payment level will be calculated at 70 percent of the yield and 100 percent of the price. The buy-in fee is \$100 per crop, with a maximum fee of \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for all counties. Producers who meet the definition of “Socially Disadvantaged,” “Limited Resource”, or “Beginning Farmer or Rancher,” are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

MAY 18, 2009 DEADLINE continued:

Producers who take advantage of this buy-in opportunity are agreeing to the following:

- If FCIC insurance is available for the crop you agree to purchase the FCIC insurance **in the next available year**, (excluding grazing land) for a level of 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- IF NAP is available for the crop, you agree to purchase NAP coverage in the next available year, and to file all of the necessary paperwork. NAP coverage is always 50 percent of yields and 55 percent of the price.

Note: The buy-in option does not cover benefits in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE) PROGRAM

FSA national office:

- is expecting that producers will be able to make elections and enrollment into the ACRE program in April 2009.
- Has provided the attached ACRE FACT Sheet and news release, which gives great details about the program.

PLANTING FLEXIBILITY

Any commodity may be planted on the following:

- 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 the 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. FSA's new digital maps may have revised the acres on your farm and this could affect the number of acres eligible for planting. In addition, 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 produces have had large penalties enforced for planting to many acres of FAV's or wild rice. **Do not let this happen to you.**

PREVENTED PLANTED PROVISIONS

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage, due to disaster-related conditions, can not be planted. 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. The maximum number of prevented planted acres is no longer limited to the history of planting and prevented planted acreage of the specific crop. County Committee review and action are required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. County Committee *may not* approve acreage that:

- Was not planted because of a *management decision*
- Was used for *conservation purposes*, including any that was intended to be left idle
- Had a *previous or subsequent crop* planted that does not meet the double-cropping provisions
- Does not meet *other* applicable rules.

Below are the final planting dates for Arkansas and the deadlines for filing prevented planted credit. Unless noted the date is applicable to all counties in Arkansas:

Crop	Federal Crop Insurance Final Planting Date	Deadline to File Prevented Planted
Corn	May 10	May 25
Upland Cotton	May 20 Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, St Francis, White, and Woodruff Counties	June 4
Upland Cotton	May 25 Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Lonoke, Miller, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, and Pulaski Counties	June 9
Peanuts	May 25	June 9
Rice	May 31	June 15
Grain Sorghum	June 10	June 25
Soybeans	June 15	June 30
Wheat, Oats,	November 30	December 15

FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS

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

FALL-SEEDED CROPS ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

May 15, 2009, is the deadline to report this year's fall-seeded crops to your local FSA Office. Acreage reports are required to be eligible to receive DCP Payments.

REPORTING DOUBLE-CROPPED ACREAGE

Producers are reminded, before double-cropped acreage can be recognized by FSA as double-cropped; the Arkansas State Committee must approve the double-cropping practice. The Arkansas State Committee has approved soybeans behind wheat and oats for all counties in Arkansas. Be sure and check with your county to see if any other crops have been approved. If not, a producer has the option of showing he/she successfully produces the specific crops in double cropping practices. Details are available at your local FSA office.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have services completed on the farm. Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

2009 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Acreage Reporting Deadline	
Forage Crops – for Hay and Pasture (mechanically harvested acreage and grazing acreage)	February 15, 2009 Extended to April 1, 2009
Barley and Oat Crops for Hay or Grazing	April 1, 2009
Pecans – Native and Improved varieties	April 1, 2009
Greens – All varieties, Spring Planted	
Broccoli	May 15, 2009
Cabbage	
Carrots	
Sweet Corn	
Lettuce – All varieties	
Potatoes – All varieties	
Strawberries	
Tomatoes – Spring Planted	

OTHER DEADLINES

Final Loan and LDP Availability for 2008-crop Wheat, Barley, Oats, Honey, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Rapeseed, and Sesame Seed	March 31, 2009
Fall Seeded Acreage Reporting Deadline (Wheat & Oats)	May 15, 2009
NEW---2008 Crop Buy-In for SURE, ELAP, TAP	May 18, 2009
Final Loan and LDP Availability for 2008-crop Upland Cotton, Rice, Corn, Dry peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed.	May 31, 2009
2009 DCP enrollment and return of signatures	June 1, 2009
Deadline for Estates to Provide CCC-902 Farm Operation Plan	June 1, 2009

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