



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - STATE OFFICE MARCH 2013

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from May 20 - June 14, 2013.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water, and air quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments, and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. Accepted contracts for CRP sign-up 45 will begin Oct. 1 2013.

FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support.

Submitting CRP Offers

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP sign-up 45. CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2013, may submit offers.

To submit CRP offers, producers must visit their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the sign-up period. To find a local FSA office, visit the USDA website at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of the CRP sign-up period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Eligible Land

To be eligible for placement in the CRP general sign-up, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due

to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses, and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for CRP sign-up 45.

Additional Cropland Requirements

In addition to the eligible land requirements for the CRP general sign-up, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher
- Be expiring CRP acreage or
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area

CRP Payments

FSA provides, CRP sign-up 45, participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments, and cost-share assistance.

- **Rental Payments** - In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county, and the average dry land cash rent. County office staff working with the producer will calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer prior to enrollment. Producers may offer land below the rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.
- **Cost-Share Assistance** - FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.

Ranking CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers, for CRP sign-up 45, according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information, and selected conservation practice), and determines the environmental indices for the land offered.

FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers, and selects from that ranking. After the sign-up ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up. Producers may consult with local FSA, and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) staff on how to maximize EBI points, and increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

CRP Continuous Sign-Up

In addition to CRP sign-up 45, producers at any time, **when authorized**, can participate in CRP continuous sign-up, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land.

For More Information

For more information on CRP, contact a local FSA office, or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

**SIGNUP HAS BEGUN FOR THE
2013 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) AND
2013 AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAMS (ACRE)**

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was enacted on January 2, 2013 and extended the DCP, and ACRE Programs for one additional year. **FSA began DCP, and ACRE enrollment on February 19, 2013.** The ACRE enrollment will end June 3, 2013, and the DCP enrollment will end August 2, 2013. Producers may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE or vice versa. Producers can enroll by visiting a county office, or on-line, if proper security clearance has been completed, and authorized. The provisions of the DCP and ACRE Programs remain unchanged from 2012. However, producers are encouraged to read the terms, and conditions in the Appendix to the Contract that is given to them at program signup.

2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE) PROGRAM

FSA is still accepting 2011 crop loss applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. **The signup deadline is June 7, 2013.**

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."

FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS

Producers should report failed crop acres to their local FSA Office when the crop failed due to disaster related conditions. To be timely filed the failed acreage shall be reported to FSA before the crop is destroyed. County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. The County Committee may require the office to conduct a field visit for crop residue and verification.

REPORTING DOUBLE-CROPPED ACREAGE

REMINDER FOR PRODUCERS: Before FSA recognizes double-cropped acreage 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 there are other approved double cropping crops.
- If the crop is not recognized as a double cropped practice, 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.

2011-2012 ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI)
COMPLIANCE REVIEWS ARE EXPECTED SOON

FSA's national office is expected soon to release the names of producers who's average adjusted gross income has been questioned, and must prove compliance for program years 2011 and 2012. Once the names are released, these producer will be mailed a letter explaining the process they must complete to verify compliance. Producers failing to successfully show their average adjusted gross income for the applicable years did not exceed the applicable limits must refund the applicable program benefits. FSA's compliance process is continuous, and additional producers will be notified in a similar manner if the IRS search results reveal potential non-compliance. Producers should always be careful when certifying compliance. Producers should ensure that they fully understand the certification form, and the income limitations.

2011 END-OF-YEAR PAYMENT LIMITATION REVIEWS EXPECTED SOON

In the near future FSA is expected to begin the process of completing payment eligibility, and payment limitation compliance reviews for 2011. Producers selected for review are required to supply actual receipts, and documents to support the claimed capital, equipment, land, labor, and management contributions which were designated on the CCC-902 Farm Operating plan. Selected producers will be notified as soon as the selection is identified.

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Linda Newkirk, State Executive Director
Sharon Shireman, Acting 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

PROGRAM DEADLINES

<p>2013 NAP Application Closing Dates: (last date to purchase 2013 crop year coverage) for:</p> <p>Green Beans (fresh and processed) Sweet Corn Tomatoes, (spring and fall planted), fresh Alfalfa All Warm Season forage and grazing crops Turnips, Hybrid (Barkant) for grazing</p>	<p>March 15, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to inform FSA of crop losses</p>	<p>Before Crop Disposition</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Corn</p>	<p>May 10, 2013</p>
<p align="center">ACREAGE REPORTING DATES FOR NAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring greens (turnip, mustard, spinach, collards, and kale) • Broccoli • Cabbage • Carrots • Lettuce • Green Onions • Potatoes • Warm Season Forage Crops for haying or grazing 	<p>Report these crops <u>15 calendar days</u> before the onset of harvest</p>
<p align="center">(NAP Program continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomatoes • Tomatillo 	<p>Report these crops <u>on or before</u> May 15, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to Report Tomato Crop (if not insured with NAP)</p>	<p>May 15, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Grain Sorghum</p>	<p>May 30, 2013</p>
<p>2012 Final Marketing Assistance Loan Availability Dates Rice, Upland Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans</p>	<p>May 31, 2013</p>
<p>The date FSA uses to look at the structure of farming operations to calculate direct attributions</p>	<p>June 1, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file a 2013 Acre Contract</p>	<p>June 3, 2013</p>
<p><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</p>	<p>June 4, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date for Sign-up for 2011 Losses for the SURE Program</p>	<p>June 7, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Rice</p>	<p>June 9, 2013</p>
<p><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</p>	<p>June 9, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Peanuts</p>	<p>June 9, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Not Following Another Crop (NFAC)</p>	<p>June 30, 2013</p>
<p><u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Following Another Crop (FAC)</p>	<p>July 10, 2013</p>

ACREAGE REPORTING DATES FOR NAP (continued)

Final date to report planted acreage on the following crops:

All Varieties of Beans
 Corn for Grain
 Sweet Corn
 Corn for Forage or Silage
 Cotton
 Cantaloupes
 Cucumbers
 Eggplant
 Grain Sorghum
 Sorghum for Forage (Sudex)
 Millet for Forage
 Okra
 Onions
 Peanuts
 Pecans (Improved and Native)
 All Varieties of Peas
 All Varieties of Peppers
 Pumpkins
 Rice
 All Varieties of Squash (spring planted)
 Soybeans
 Sweet Potatoes
 Watermelons

July 15, 2013

Final date to Report 2013 Spring Seeded Crops

July 15, 2013

Last date to request a 2013 reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm

August 1, 2013

Final date to file a 2013 DCP Contracts

August 2, 2013

Final date to return signatures for producers sharing in the DCP contracts

Final date to prioritize crops to receive ACRE Payments

September 30, 2013

Final date to file a 2013 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2013

Final date to return signatures for producers who share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract that had a 2013 successor-in-interest contract filed after June 1, 2013

Final date to report 2014 planted and prevented planted wheat and oats

December 15, 2013