



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

April 2013

JULY 15, 2013 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

July 15, 2013 is the final acreage reporting deadline for spring seeded planted crops. Many FSA programs require all cropland on a farm to be certified in order to earn FSA benefits. However, if the crops are not planted by July 15, 2013, FSA's provisions allow crops to be considered timely reported if reported to FSA within 15 calendar days after planting is completed. However, it is extremely important for producers to understand all fields that are planted by July 15, 2013 must be certified by this date.

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.

SIGNUP IS UNDERWAY FOR 2013 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) AND THE 2013 AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAMS (ACRE)

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.

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.**

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together, to improve program compliance, and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

- FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season
- FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA
- Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA, or the Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims.

FSA, NRCS, AND RD ARE OFFERING A RECEIPT FOR SERVICE

Upon request by customers, FSA, NRCS, and RD will issue a receipt for service. The receipt allows for the following:

- Summary of benefit or service requested
- Action taken or recommended
- Additional comments
- The employee's, name, signature providing the service
- Date of service.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROVISIONS

Any person convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

<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, 2013
ACREAGE REPORTING DATES FOR NAP	Report these crops <u>15 calendar days</u> before the onset of harvest
<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 	
(NAP Program continued)	Report these crops <u>on or before</u> May 15, 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomatoes • Tomatillo 	
<u>Final</u> date to Report Tomato Crop (if not insured with NAP)	May 15, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Grain Sorghum	May 30, 2013
2012 Final Marketing Assistance Loan Availability Dates Rice, Upland Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans	May 31, 2013
The date FSA uses to look at the structure of farming operations to calculate direct attributions	June 1, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file a 2013 Acre Contract	June 3, 2013
<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, 2013
<u>Final</u> date for Sign-up for 2011 Losses for the SURE Program	June 7, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Rice	June 9, 2013
<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, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Peanuts	June 9, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Not Following Another Crop (NFAC)	June 30, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file prevented planted acreage/credit for Soybeans Following Another Crop (FAC)	July 10, 2013
ACREAGE REPORTING DATES FOR NAP	July 15, 2013
<u>Final</u> 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)	

ACREAGE REPORTING DATES <u>FOR NAP</u> (continued)	
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 Sugar Cane Sunflowers Sweet Potatoes Watermelons	July 15, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to Report 2013 Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 2013
<u>Last</u> date to request a 2013 reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm	August 1, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to file a 2013 DCP Contracts	August 2, 2013
<u>Final</u> date to return signatures for producers sharing in the DCP contracts	
<u>Final</u> date to prioritize crops to receive ACRE Payments	
<u>Final</u> date to file a 2013 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2013	September 30, 2013
<u>Final</u> 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	
<u>Final</u> date to report <u>2014</u> planted and prevented planted wheat and oats	December 15, 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. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program.**"

Submitting CRP Offers

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP sign-up 45. In addition, 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.

More information on EBI for CRP sign-up 45 is available by reading the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program Sign-up 45, Environmental Benefits Index."

CRP Continuous Sign-Up

In addition to CRP sign-up 45, producers at any time, after it is announced, can participate in CRP continuous sign-up, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. This announcement is expected later in the Spring of 2013.

More information on CRP continuous sign-up is available in the FSA fact sheet, "[Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up](#)" document.

For More Information

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

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