



## “SCOOP”

### ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE AUGUST 2012

#### 2013 WHEAT AND OATS TO BE CERTIFIED BY DECEMBER 15, 2012

FSA and RMA now have the same acreage reporting deadlines. *To be timely filed producers, must certify 2013 Wheat and Oats planted and prevented planted acreages by December 15, 2012.* The change is designed to help improve services to farm producers with a common reporting environment, and consistent deadlines. Below is a chart with other 2013 acreage reporting deadlines. *It is important for producers to understand these deadlines are applicable whether the crop is insured with RMA; or not insured with RMA.*

Crop Year (Harvested Year)	Crop	Reporting Date
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Wheat and Oats	December 15, 2012
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Apples, Grapes, Peaches	January 15, 2013
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Corn, Upland Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Rice, Soybeans and other Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 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

FSA, NRCS, and RD have now implemented a new procedure, and document that producers receive when they request a receipt for service. The receipt has been designed and 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.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced a Continuous CRP signup initiative to voluntarily protect Highly Erodible Cropland, defined as cropland that has a weighted Erodibility Index (EI) greater than or equal to 20.

The average soil erosion rate on cropland with an EI greater than or equal to 20 is over 20 tons per acre, per year. Soil erosion at this rate will reduce the long term productivity of these lands and will have the potential to have significant off-site impacts to both water quality and air quality.

Analysis of recent CRP signups indicate that well over 90 percent of the cropland with an EI greater than or equal to 20 were accepted. In most cases, enrollment in long term cover is a very cost-effective means to protect the natural resources of these highly erodible sites compared to structural water conservation measures.

This initiative will be available beginning July 23, 2012. Offers will be accepted under continuous signup criteria until the earlier of:

- the State's allocation of 700 acres is reached
- September 30, 2012.

The producer may enroll a field(s) or a portion of a field provided the weighted average EI (wind or water) for all land offered is greater than or equal to 20 based on the 3 predominant soils.

The following practices are eligible for HELI:

- CP1 Establishment of Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2 Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP3 Tree Planting
- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat.

Covers on both new land or expiring CRP land, must meet the minimum N1A Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) point value provided in 2-CRP, Exhibit 26, for the applicable practice. Expiring CP10 or CP11 may be offered as the appropriate practice provided the cover meets the N1A EBI point value.

Signup Incentive Payments, Practice Incentive Payments, and per acre maximum payment rate incentives are **not** authorized.

For more information on this and other initiatives, contact your local FSA office.

## EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING OF CRP ACREAGE

**Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP acreage** in 2012 has been approved for all counties in Arkansas. Emergency haying must end August 31, 2012 and Emergency Grazing ends September 30, 2012.

The following terms and conditions must be followed and agreed to (signed) by each CRP participant who is interested in this opportunity **BEFORE** haying or grazing begins.

### Terms and Conditions for Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage

I/We hereby request authority for emergency haying or grazing of approved cover on CRP acreage.

I/We agree to:

- (1) **obtain a modified conservation plan to include haying and grazing**, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP);
- (2) **re-establishing, at my/our own expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result** of participating under this authority, regardless of recommendations or determinations made by the TSP;
- (3) **remove all hay or livestock from CRP acreage before the earlier of October 1**, or 10 calendar days from the date notified by Farm Service Agency (FSA) at the local county office that emergency haying or grazing authorization has ended;
- (4) **limit haying of CRP acreage to one cutting**;
- (5) **not hay and graze the same acreage**.

The FY 2012 annual rental payment, scheduled to be made after October 1, will be reduced by the number of acres actually hayed or grazed, times **10 percent** of the CRP annual per acre payment rate.

I/We agree to leave at least **50 percent** of each field or contiguous fields un-hayed, or leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous fields un-grazed for wildlife, or graze all of the CRP at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate determined by the TSP.

If acreage hayed or grazed is more or less than originally intended, I/we will notify FSA at the local county office so the CRP annual rental payment can be adjusted accordingly.

The CRP contract is subject to termination or other penalties as may be authorized by the CRP contract and regulations should there be any violation of this haying or grazing authority of CRP acreage.

If the payment reduction has not been paid in advance, all signatories on CRP-1 shall sign these conditions before haying or grazing begins.

Acreage eligible for emergency haying or grazing includes acreage devoted to practices CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP18, CP18C, CP25.

For further information, please contact your local county FSA office.

**PROGRAM DEADLINES**

**NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)**

<b>CROP</b>	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>
Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod,	09/01/2012
Oats (WTR) for Grain, Wheat (SRW) for Grain, Strawberries	09/30/2012
Barley, Oats, Rye, Wheat, Fescue, Red, Fescue Tall, Orchardgrass, -- <b><u>GRAZING AND FORAGE</u></b>	09/30/2012
<b>Small Grains, Interseeded, SSG and MSG (COOL SEASON) – <u>GRAZING AND FORAGE</u> ***</b>	09/30/2012

\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*Mixed Forage – IGS has 2 distinct application closing dates and acreage reporting dates to cover cool and warm seasons. This will require that a separate NAP application fee be paid for each application period.

In order to provide an option for NAP coverage of mixed forage of warm season grasses, an additional planting period (period 02) has been added. This additional planting period covers mixtures of 2 or more warm season inter-seeded grass mixes (IGS) to be covered by NAP. This addition covers warm season grass mixes that will be harvested from April through October of the crop year, with a 215 day grazing period.

**Please note that this additional option will have an application closing date of March 15, 2013, and an acreage reporting date of April 1, 2013.**

Final date to <b>inform FSA of crop losses</b>	Before Crop Disposition
Last date to request a <b>2012 reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm</b>	August 1, 2012
Final date to <b>prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments</b> Final date to file a <b>2012 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2012</b> Final date to <b>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</b>	September 30, 2012
Final date to report <b>wheat and oat planted and prevented planted acreage</b>	December 15, 2012

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