



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

September 2012

BE AWARE AND ALERT PRODUCERS FIRE ANTS IN HAY

With this intense drought, there is a whole bunch of hay moving into Arkansas. We are getting several calls a day from people looking for hay to bring in. If hay is moving from the Imported Fire Ant Quarantine area to an area OUTSIDE of the quarantine, a USDA Certificate, USDA Limited Permit, or a USDA Compliance Agreement stamp must accompany it.

There is no treatment for hay/straw. The only way it can legally be moved from the quarantine to outside of the quarantine is by storing the hay in an approved method, and accompanied by USDA documentation. Approved storage methods include storage on a hard surface (concrete or asphalt), pallets, visqueen, stacked two or more high (the bales not on the ground can be moved), or loaded onto a truck or trailer right after baling. If someone can meet these requirements, and be inspected by a State Agriculture Official or USDA Official, a permit or stamp can be issued.

If your area is INSIDE the fire ant quarantine, you may need to do some hay inspections and issue a certificate or stamp.

If your area is OUTSIDE the fire ant quarantine, please be on the lookout for hay moving into your area. If it originated inside the quarantine, it's got to have a certificate, permit, or stamp. This applies whether it originated in Arkansas, or some other state in the quarantine. If you come across any hay going from quarantine to outside quarantine WITHOUT the proper documentation, call me or Terry. We will most likely send it back or make them sell it to someone inside the quarantine. Also, it would be good to check the area for fire ants with the Greasy Potato Chip Method. Put some chips out around the hay and see if any ants show up in the next 30 minutes or so.

Cooperative Extension Service has been doing a great job informing hay consumers about the fire ant regulations. These producers want to feed their livestock, but they certainly don't want any fire ants in their pastures. The Agriculture Departments in LA, TX, and MS have been doing inspections for shipments to us. A big part of this hay issue is educating a segment of agriculture that we don't have a lot of contact with. Please spread the word and keep your eyes open for hay movement.

USDA Fire Ants in Hay Brochure:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/BaledHayProducers.pdf

USDA Fire Ant Quarantine Map:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant-2.pdf Fire Ant Quarantine Zip Code Search:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/zipcode.shtml

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP acreage in 2012 is 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 may 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. **Recently added to this list are CP23, and CP23A**

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

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Nearly 30 counties in Arkansas have been approved to offer Drought Emergency Measures to producers with land in their county. Funding for this practice has been made available, but not to all counties at this printing. However, if producers want to make an application during their county office announced Signup period, they will be notified when funding is made available.

The practice available provides water conservation and enhancement measures to

- Permit grazing of range, pasture, or forage by livestock
- Supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards
- Provide emergency water for confined livestock operations

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

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)

Time and acres are running out for landowners in the following counties, to offer land for the BCAP Project Area 2 Expansion. The Project Area includes all of Clay, Craighead, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett and Randolph counties.

2012 COMMODITY LOAN/LDP PROVISIONS

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are authorized for the 2012 crop year. Commodities eligible for loan or LDP, whether produced on a participating or nonparticipating farm are:

Wheat	Corn	Rice	Upland Cotton
Oats	Grain Sorghum	Soybeans	Honey
Peanuts	Wool	Oilseeds	Pulse Crops

Hay and silage derived from the above commodities and unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP, but not for marketing assistance loan. In addition, producers who graze wheat, oats, barley, and triticale are eligible for an LDP-like Graze-Out payment, if the crop is grazed out by livestock, and not mechanically harvested. Graze-Out payments only apply at times when an LDP is available on the applicable commodity. As of this date, there are no LDP rates in effect for any commodities.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for loans and LDPs, producers must:

1. Certify planted acreage for all crops and account for all cropland
2. Have beneficial interest in the commodity
3. Share in the risk of producing the commodity
4. Comply with Highly Erodible Land Conservation/Wetland Conservation Provisions (HELC/WC)
5. Comply with Adjusted Gross Income Provisions for loan market gains or LDP's
6. Not owe a delinquent nontax federal debt – Once the debt is resolved, the producer is eligible to participate.
7. Not violate controlled substance provisions

Beneficial Interest Requirements

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan or LDP, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity. Beneficial interest means the producer has complete control and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan and LDP, even if beneficial interest is regained. For loans, either, producers must maintain beneficial interest through the date the commodity is redeemed from loan, or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity. For LDPs, beneficial interest must be maintained through the date the CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 is signed or the date LDP is requested.

All producers and landowners who share in the proceeds of the crop are encouraged to sign form CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 prior to harvest. Signing of this form prior to harvest protects a producer or landowner if loan deficiency payment (LDP) benefits are not requested prior to loss of beneficial interest. Signing of the form does not take away any option that is available to request a commodity loan or an LDP.

All commodities pledged for CCC loan must be free, and clear of all liens, judgments, and other encumbrances. If not, lien waivers must be provided. Commodities pledged for CCC loan must be stored in approved on-farm storage, or in State or Federally approved warehouses willing to store the commodity, and issue a warehouse receipt for the loan period.

Producers are responsible for maintaining the storability, and quality of commodities stored on the farm. Additionally, producers MUST request an authorization from FSA PRIOR to MOVING, delivering to buyers, selling, or feeding commodities mortgaged to CCC. Severe penalties apply for non-compliance with this requirement.

Loan rates and interest rates are available upon request at any County FSA Office or on the internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=lor>.

Final Availability Dates

The final date to request commodity loans or LDP's for 2012 crop commodities are as follows:

Peanuts Wool Unshorn Pelts (LDP only)	January 31, 2013
Wheat Oats Honey Oilseeds – (canola, crambe, flaxseed, rapeseed, sesame seed)	March 31, 2013
Corn Grain Sorghum Rice Upland Cotton Soybeans Pulse Crops Oilseeds – (mustard seed, safflower seed, sunflower seed)	May 31, 2013

LAST DATE TO MODIFY 2012 DCP/ACRE CONTRACTS NEARS

September 30, 2012 is the final date to revise or modify an approved 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election Revenue Assistance (ACRE) program contract. Changes might include, however, are not limited to revisions to producer's shares, reduction of bases acres because of conversion of land to non-agriculture uses, sale of land to a different owner, change of operator, death of a participant on the contract, etc. Failure to revise the program contract with all required signatures by September 30, 2012 will result in the ENTIRE farm not being enrolled for 2012. If you have any type of change you need to immediately contact your applicable county office to discuss the situation.

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

ARKANSAS COTTON GROWERS MUST REPORT TO THE ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

Contact the State Plant Board ASAP (501-225-1598, or by email: mark.stoll@aspb.ar.gov) if you are a new grower, have just returned to growing cotton, are growing cotton in a new area that does not normally have cotton:

- To incorporate these growers in to the Boll Weevil Eradication Program
- To prevent infestation of cotton all acres of cotton must be trapped
- All cotton growers will be required to pay the per acre assessment associated with their geographical zone in order to have their cotton ginned.

Program Deadlines	Date
Final date to inform FSA of crop losses	Before Crop Disposition
Final date to prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments Final date to file a 2012 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2012 Final date to 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	September 30, 2012
Final date to report 2013 wheat and oats planted and prevented planted acreage	December 15, 2012

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