



Dinwiddie County Quarterly News

Dinwiddie County USDA Service Center

Dinwiddie County FSA
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Neil Wells
Maxwell Watkins Jr
Wayne Barnes
John Lassiter

Staff

Beverley Claiborne
Tami Bennett
Stacey Huband

County Executive Director

Rick Blackwood

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

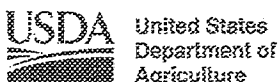
A decision to elect ACRE binds the farm and the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1.





SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Also, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is 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.

Acres Reporting

Acres reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acres reports are to be certified by the May 31st deadline on small grains, and a June 30th deadline on all other crops except tobacco, grain sorghum & soybeans. July 15th is the deadline for reporting tobacco, grain sorghum & soybean acres.

Acres reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31st for small grains and June 30th for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

To receive proper credit for some programs administered by FSA, producers should report acres prevented from being planted by a natural disaster, and acres that was planted, and failed.

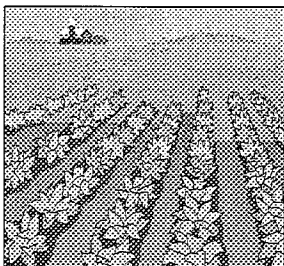
Acres prevented from being planted must be reported within 15 days after the crop insurance-established final planting date.

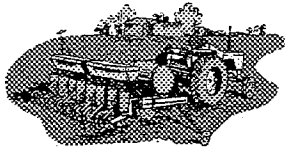
Failed acres should be reported before the disposition of the crop.

FSA Monitoring Crop Conditions

Personnel from local FSA offices throughout Virginia will be in the field this spring and summer monitoring crop conditions. Results of the inspections are reported to USDA's Risk Management Agency. The reviews are conducted to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) encourages producers to report suspected cases of crop insurance abuse to their local FSA office, to the Risk Management Agency (RMA), or to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

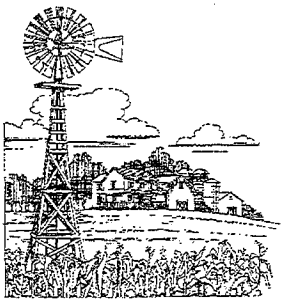




Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment.

If special accommodations are required, please contact the Farm Service Agency County Office staff.



Livestock Losses - LIP

Producers suffering livestock losses due to natural disasters may be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Incentive Program (LIP). Stop by or call your local FSA office within 30 calendar days that the loss is apparent to file a FSA-914 (Notice of Loss) for eligible livestock.

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used, or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which require a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.



*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 23841
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS C/O DINWIDDIE ADMIN 03 0003
PO BOX 70
DINWIDDIE VA 23841-0070

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab you or the clothing you might be wearing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults, not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Insure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	SURE Signup
Continuous	LIP Signup
May 31	Fall Seeded Crop Reporting Deadline
June 1	DCP Sign-up Ends

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

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