



U.S. Department of Agriculture

FSA UPDATES

Saratoga County FSA

50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020

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Hours

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

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Chris Koval- Reg. Mem.

Staff

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Janelle Moore, PT

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DCP & ACRE Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been **extended until August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. **Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.**

FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. 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.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas. The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Request for Soybean Referendum May 4 – May 29

On March 4, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at county Farm Service Agency offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency county offices. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/ismarketingprograms> during the same time period.

The deadline for returning the referendum request form is May 29, 2009. USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one state. For more information, contact the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C.20250-0251.

Selected Farm Loan Interest Rates for May 2009	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.75%

Producer Payment Statements

FSA has gone to a new system of mailing producer payment statements. The statements are no longer sent from your local office, they are now mailed from a centralized location. Unfortunately, this means the statements show up roughly one week after the payment has been electronically deposited in your chosen bank account. FSA knows producers are anxiously awaiting payments, if you have any questions about potential deposits, contact your financial institution or call your local FSA office.

Saratoga County FSA Office
50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020-0600

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Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans, Load Deficiency Payments, ACRE, SURE and LFP. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. If a NAP crop was not planted, a zero acreage report is required from each producer having a CCC-471 NAP application. The final date for reporting any specific crop acreage for which NAP assistance may be paid, is the earlier of the following: the established acreage reporting date or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. **The deadlines for crop reporting are June 15th for small grains and July 15th for all other crops.** Please keep track of your planting dates that are required for crop reporting. We have made appointments for producers to report crops starting now. If you are ready or don't receive an appointment letter, call our office immediately.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Extensions

FSA will offer certain producers the opportunity to modify and extend their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2009. FSA will notify participants by letter beginning May 6, 2009. The sign-up for this voluntary extension will begin on May 18 and run through June 30, 2009. Farmers and ranchers may apply for this extension at their FSA county office. CRP contracts with the highest environmental benefit or with the highest potential for soil erosion will be selected. CRP contracts can not exceed 15 years in the aggregate and chosen CRP contract holders will generally be offered a three to five year extension. A general CRP signup is not scheduled during fiscal year 2009. However, producers may continue to enroll relatively small, highly-desirable acreages, including land that is not extended, into Continuous CRP. Applications can be accepted anytime, and funding for cost shares is always available.

Future Newsletters

FSA has asked us to limit our future newsletter publications to three thru the end of September 2009. We will most likely publish a June and July newsletter and then not mail another for August and September of 2009. We will continue to publish a e-mail newsletter and e-mail it to you upon request for the August and September issues and into the future if you so desire. If you want to receive our newsletter via e-mail, please share your e-mail address with us by calling us or when you visit the office. We can continue to send the newsletter via e-mail indefinitely in the future if you so request as well. We are also posting our newsletter to the Saratoga County Cooperative Extension web site at www.ccsaratoga.org. Just click on the link on 1st page.

Sundae on The Farm

Sundae on the Farm will be held on Sunday June 21 at Koval Brothers Dairy LLC on 313 Burke Road in the Town of Saratoga. Betty, Chris and Jen, and Adam Koval and their families will be your hosts and be giving you tours of their modern dairy facilities. Observe and learn the various aspects of this major industry firsthand. Bring your non-farm neighbors so they can learn about Saratoga County Agriculture. Enjoy ice cream sundaes, pie ala mode and other Saratoga County food products. It starts at 12 noon & goes to 4:00 p.m. See you there!

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.