

March deadline approaching

By Teri Moss

County Executive Director

Important Deadline

Producers who want to purchase coverage through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must do so before the sales closing date of Friday, March 15.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of March 15: Spring seeded mixed forage, alfalfa, grass for forage and grazing, oats, and spring seeded vegetables

DCP/ACRE Signup

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program are being offered for the 2013 crop year under the 2008 Farm Bill Extension.

All participants may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. Our office will be scheduling and emailing appointments to farm operators.

Unlike prior years, appointment postcards will not be mailed.

The final date to enroll in ACRE is June 3. The final date to enroll in DCP is August 2.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible.

A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA.

Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

These record changes need to be made before producers can sign up their farm(s) into the 2013 Farm Program.

Also, for those who find it difficult to visit the county office, FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business with FSA. If interested, contact our office for more information.

CRP Mid-Contract Management

All CRP participants with contracts effective beginning with signup 26 are required to perform management activities as part of their approved conservation plan.

Mid-contract management (MCM) practices consist of completing one of the following: prescribed burning, tillage and interseeding, or chemical herbaceous vegetation control and interseeding.

These practices must be completed by the sixth year of the contract to remain in compliance.

All participants who have a MCM activity to complete should be receiving an AD-245 listing the applicable practices to be completed. This form needs to be filled out, signed, and returned with any bill relating to the MCM upon completion of the practice.

Management activities shall be completed outside the primary nesting season of May 1 through July 15. Cost share assistance applies. If you have any questions about required management activities, please contact our office.