

Deadline announced

By Teri Moss

County Executive Director

Producers who planted wheat or other small grain crops or perennial forage have until Friday, Nov. 15 to report the acreage to FSA. Forage crops would include alfalfa and grass that will be grazed or hayed.

Late-filed fees apply after this date. To certify small grain crops, contact the Perkins County FSA Office at (308)352-4747 ext 2 to schedule an appointment.

Bring plant dates to complete the certification.

Direct Payments Issued

Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Director Teri Moss announced that USDA's Farm Service Agency in Perkins County issued direct payments last week to participants in the 2013 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).

Payments originally were scheduled to be issued earlier in the month, but were delayed due to the lapse in federal funding.

"Our staff worked hard to issue these payments as scheduled prior to the furlough," Moss said. "We understand the importance of getting these payments out to Perkins County farmers and landowners, and that's been our priority since returning to work."

Direct payments are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm.

For each eligible commodity, the total direct payment for producers on a farm is determined by multiplying 85 percent of the farm's base acreage by the farm's direct payment yield, multiplied by the direct payment rate as established by the Farm Bill.

Perkins County producers normally receive more than \$6 million dollars in direct DCP and ACRE payments. However, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Contract Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, requires a reduction in payments (also known as sequester). As a result, 2013 DCP direct payments received by participants will be reduced by 8.6 percent.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll in the 2013 DCP or ACRE program.

Legislation has not been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority for a 2014 program.

Direct payments are processed through FSA's Kansas City Office. Individual questions on payments should be directed to the local FSA Office where the DCP contract is administered.

For more information on DCP, ACRE and other FSA programs, visit your local FSA Service Center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

ACRE Revenue Payments

Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Director Dan Steinkruger announced that both non-irrigated corn and non-irrigated soybeans have been determined eligible in Nebraska for revenue

payments, called “ACRE-ACRE” payments, under the provisions of the 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). Additional Nebraska crops qualifying for ACRE revenue payments include both irrigated and non-irrigated barley and dry peas.

“The impact to our corn and soybean yields resulting from the extreme drought conditions during the 2012 growing season caused revenue declines that are now compensated by the ACRE program” Steinkruger added. ACRE revenue payments will assist in mitigating the portion of a revenue loss not covered by crop insurance indemnities.

The ACRE program, as a part of the 2008 Farm Bill, provides a revenue safety net which protects declines in either yield or price.

Nebraska qualified to have irrigated and non-irrigated acreages of corn and soybeans considered as separate crops. ACRE crops may be eligible for payment when the actual state revenue is less than the crop’s state ACRE guarantee.

In order to earn payments, each farm participating in ACRE must also hit the “farm trigger,” which means the actual 2012 farm revenue is less than the farm’s benchmark revenue.

Benchmark revenue is calculated using a five-year average yield, and a two-year average national market price.

Actual revenue cannot be determined until the end of a crop’s marketing year, which was Aug. 31, 2013 for 2012 crop corn and soybeans.

Under the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, farmers and landowners had an opportunity each year to elect participation in either the ACRE program or the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).

The ACRE election could be made in any year, but was then irrevocable through the end of the Farm Bill. In exchange for the revenue protection offered by ACRE, participants gave up 20 percent of their direct payments.

ACRE payments are calculated using 85 percent of the planted acres, not to exceed a farm’s base acres.