

DCP, ACRE program enrollments begin

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010.

For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. Producers who come in the office in early December to enroll in DCP will have a better chance of receiving their advance in 2009. Please do not delay coming in if you want to request your advance this year. Please keep in mind the national office is continuing to work on payment software problems so they can't guarantee payment; however, they will do everything they can that's within their control.

Phillips County is planning that the month of December will be open for producers who request their advance to be paid this month. Producers should call the office to schedule an appointment.

Producers should use the next several months to learn more about the optional ACRE Program which provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP.

Even though producers may wait until closer to June 1, 2010 to decide whether or not to participate in ACRE, it is hoped people will use this time to learn what ACRE is about to make an informed decision on 2010 enrollment. Producers who want to know more about ACRE should ask the staff about ACRE when they are in the office.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. New ACRE enrollees for 2010 can opt out of ACRE and revert back to DCP prior to June 1, 2010. The irrevocable aspect of ACRE applies after June 1, 2010 for new enrollees.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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