

Farmers who have decided they are going to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) option of the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) should get an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office right away, advised State Director Dan Steinkruger.

Nebraska has 400 farms out of 72,000 eligible farms approved in ACRE. Farmers should not expect a signup extension because it could expose USDA to higher program costs.

Aug. 14 is the signup deadline.

ACRE was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill as a new revenue safety net option. If elected, ACRE replaces the price protection from target prices which may generate counter-cyclical payments.

Counter-cyclical payments have not been issued on Nebraska crops for several years due to market prices exceeding target prices.

“Farmers need to analyze the safety net that ACRE provides for 2009. Higher production costs and market volatility increase the importance of the USDA safety net options that are available. Farmers should also verify how ACRE payment limitations impact their operations for 2009 and later years. Husband and wife joint operations may need to be defined with FSA in case ACRE payments would be sizable,” said Steinkruger.

“I have also had farmers tell me they are going to wait a year and consider 2010 ACRE enrollment. That approach is fine unless we see a drop in the state and farm crop revenue for 2009. If that occurs you have a missed opportunity,” noted Steinkruger.

“We need farmers who have decided they want to enroll in ACRE to elect now at their FSA office. Waiting until August may result in delays at their local FSA office,” he said.