



07-20-09

## **Sec. Vilsack promotes ACRE signup as Aug. 14 deadline nears**

**By Agri-Pulse Staff**

© Copyright Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

With ACRE participation lagging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released three Public Service Announcements Monday featuring Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminding producers that Aug. 14 is the sign-up deadline for the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program.

“I encourage all producers to visit their local FSA office and land grant university representatives to evaluate and consider whether ACRE is right for your farm,” Vilsack said. “ACRE provides producers an alternative to counter-cyclical payments and producers should make use of the opportunity to choose the option that better meets their needs.”

ACRE provides an alternative risk-management tool for producers. ACRE was created in the 2008 Farm Bill and offers a revenue-based alternative to the traditional Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Producers may elect to participate in ACRE even if they have already received an advance DCP payment for 2009.

Numerous resources are available to help producers make an informed decision. FSA county office staff can answer many questions on program rules, application procedures and potential benefits. Experts at local land grant universities can assist with potential payment calculations. FSA has also launched an ACRE webpage, with educational information, including an electronic program payment calculator, located at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp)

Commodities eligible for ACRE 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. Once a farm is enrolled in ACRE, that farm must continue to be enrolled in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Text of Vilsack’s Public Service Announcements is below.

### **It’s Decision Time:**

“This is Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and it’s Decision Time. The sign-up deadline is quickly approaching and producers have until Aug. 14 to learn about the new Average

Crop Revenue Election Program. Producers can choose ACRE or re-enroll in the traditional Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Both provide financial benefits and it is up to you to determine which provides the greatest advantage to your operation. Please visit your local FSA county office for more information.”

**Get the Facts:**

“This is Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Aug. 14 is just around the corner. Producers have until this date to decide if the new Average Crop Revenue Election Program is right for them. ACRE provides producers a valuable new risk management option in addition to the traditional Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. I want to encourage producers to speak to their local FSA representative to find out more about this new revenue-based program. Don’t wait until the last moment and make sure you have all the facts before the Aug. 14 deadline.”

**Make an Informed Decision:**

“This is Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. I want to remind those folks that that do not already know about the new Average Crop Revenue Election Program, that now is the time to find out. The Aug. 14 sign-up deadline is just around the corner and there is a lot of information that a producer needs to know to make an informed decision. ACRE provides producers with a new revenue-based option that is different than the traditional price-based Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Producers are encouraged to speak to their local FSA representative, view the available resources on the FSA website, including the payment calculator, and speak with representatives at their local Land Grant University. ACRE provides new financial and risk management advantages and it is up to producers to determine if these are right for their individual farming needs. Don’t wait until the Aug. 14 deadline. Get the facts now.”

**USDA program acreage enrollment as of July 20, 2009**

State	DCP Approved 2008	DCP Approved 2009	ACRE Approved 2009	Total % Complete
Alabama	26,811	15,550	2	58.01%
Alaska	37	34	0	91.89%
Arizona	1,693	1,159	0	68.46%
Arkansas	26,422	16,980	0	64.26%
California	11,748	8,128	0	69.19%
Colorado	16,919	14,001	3	82.77%
Connecticut	1,160	246	0	21.21%
Delaware	4,075	2,203	32	54.85%
Florida	5,137	3,375	0	65.70%
Georgia	35,188	21,686	0	61.63%
Idaho	15,358	11,198	18	73.03%
Illinois	167,314	127,982	542	76.82%
Indiana	114,472	82,588	179	72.30%
Iowa	154,833	133,485	372	86.45%
Kansas	102,431	89,792	49	87.71%
Kentucky	49,068	29,837	54	60.92%
Louisiana	20,360	14,646	0	71.94%
Maine	2,341	656	0	28.02%

Maryland	13,777	4,919	0	35.70%
Massachusetts	1,008	93	0	9.23%
Michigan	60,192	33,958	5	56.42%
Minnesota	99,706	79,957	20	80.21%
Mississippi	25,285	14,193	14	56.19%
Missouri	78,347	61,818	30	78.94%
Montana	22,292	17,055	6	76.53%
Nebraska	86,380	74,256	536	86.58%
Nevada	276	202	0	73.19%
New Hampshire	678	275	0	40.56%
New Jersey	2,999	957	0	31.91%
New Mexico	4,037	2,563	0	63.49%
New York	24,751	13,920	2	56.25%
North Carolina	58,725	30,404	0	51.77%
North Dakota	56,427	39,497	51	70.09%
Ohio	102,979	71,586	206	69.72%
Oklahoma	50,909	43,112	98	84.88%
Oregon	8,016	4,932	6	61.60%
Pennsylvania	36,049	11,564	37	32.18%
Rhode Island	88	1	0	1.14%
South Carolina	18,697	7,206	0	38.54%
South Dakota	51,931	40,496	179	78.33%
Tennessee	36,912	25,866	5	70.09%
Texas	95,067	75,361	1	79.27%
Utah	4,618	2,953	1	63.97%
Vermont	2,986	612	0	20.50%
Virginia	26,568	15,881	1	59.78%
Washington	11,035	6,727	34	61.27%
West Virginia	2,878	1,082	0	37.60%
Wisconsin	87,759	62,466	35	71.22%
Wyoming	3,964	2,763	2	69.75%

---

**TOTALS            1,830,703    1,320,221            2,520            72.25%**

For more information on FSA's programs, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Radio stations can download the PSA at [www.usda.gov/wps/portal/ochome?navid=BM\\_V\\_PSA](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/ochome?navid=BM_V_PSA)