

FSA NOTES

By Keith L. Zanter

Clay County FSA Office
Vermillion, 624-7060 Ext. 2

2010 DCP Signup & the ACRE Option

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The optional ACRE Program 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. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent two-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the two-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm.

In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. 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. The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

USD, SDSGC recipients of NASA grant to aid DUSEL

The University of South Dakota, through the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC), has been selected as a recipient of a Consortium Development Competition award from NASA.

The University of South Dakota will receive a one-year grant of \$126,175 through this award, which totals \$194,742, to help fund the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) exploration of the Earth's interior. Other state institutions to receive Consortium Development Competition award funding are Dakota State University, Oglala Lakota College, Black Hills State University and the South Dakota School of Mines and Tech-

nology. SDSGC is located at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and includes institutional members and educational affiliates from institutions across the state.

Dongming Mei, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics at USD, is the principal investigator and lead technical director of this project, which is to foster increased involvement of NASA in DUSEL research through establishment of a "NASA-DUSEL Research Center for Probing the Earth's Interior."

The focus of this one-year project is a 10-week summer research experience at DUSEL and six collaborating institutions within the consortium for 15 under-

graduate students. Students selected for research will be mentored by faculty members from six SDSGC affiliates,

postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students. Additionally, the research project will be open to undergraduates from all SDSGC affiliates, with targeted recruiting of women and minorities, requiring a series of lectures to upon completion of the research activities and training. A follow-up outcome to the one-year project will be a proposal to the National Science Foundation to establish a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Site project at DUSEL that will sustain the research and training impact for additional years.

USD students take service-learning trip

Ten students from The University of South Dakota traveled to Minneapolis, MN, on behalf of the Center for Academic Engagement to assist organizations dedicated to alleviating homelessness.

Through various group activities and reflections during the service-learning trip, students learned about the need for affordable housing locally and nationally.

"This trip was a great experience. It was a concrete way to look at issues discussed in school, such as poverty and homelessness," said Joseph Mattson, a student from Sioux Falls.

USD students worked in Chaska, MN, with Habitat for Humanity. An international organization operating in more than 90 countries, Habitat for Humanity provides homeowners with an opportunity to purchase a home at cost with no interest added to their mortgage. While working in Chaska, students added the finishing touches to four houses where they also had an opportunity to work alongside one of the future homeowners.

Before returning to campus, students worked at Families Moving Forward, a temporary shelter in North Minneapolis. Students donated time by cleaning, moving furniture, picking up garbage and landscaping. The shelter is funded by private donations and partnering congregations.

"This experience in the

Twin Cities really changed my outlook on homelessness," added Kayla Frank, also of Sioux Falls. "I was very surprised to see all the help that goes toward that cause."

Student volunteers for CAE were Toni Barrera of Fremont, NE, Jen Bodah and

Justin Kloster of Brandon, Jes Colburn of Aurora, NE, Thomas Emanuel of Deadwood, Jen Gieselman of Sioux City, IA, Martha Nickerson of St. Paul, MN, Katie Raker of Grand Forks, ND, and Frank and Mattson.

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Cherry/ from page 1

it meets Highway 50. The portion of Cherry Street completed in that phase has five lanes with the center lane becoming a turn lane.

In phase two, which was begun in March, workers began where they left off from phase one, reconstructing the street from the end of phase one's improvement's west to Cottage Street. It consists of three lanes with the center lane designated as a turn lane.

Yankton Area Engineer for the Department of Transportation Ron Peterson said the Cherry Street work was necessary because its concrete surface has reached the end of its usable life. Cherry Street was constructed in 1952. The last time it was improved was 1980.

"The drainage system, the storm sewer system also was in poor condition," he said, "and the city itself has water and sewer improvements along the street that needed to be done. Pedestrian issues through the campus of USD with the various intersections were also addressed as part of this project to improve the safety and

the movement of the students."

Lighting and traffic signals along Cherry Street have also been upgraded to new standards. "There are just quite a number of things that enhance the mobility of the motorists and pedestrians, and improves the overall safety of the corridor."

Turning lanes were added at Cherry Street's intersections with Dakota, Pine, Plum and Princeton streets. "Plus the addition of a left turn lane all the way through is an overall safety enhancement," Peterson said.

The total price tag for the South Dakota Department of Transportation project is just under \$10 million. Major contractor for the project was D & G Concrete from Sioux Falls.

Motorists who pass through Vermillion have gotten used to taking detours and dodging construction work for much of the past two years.

It will probably be at least 20 years before workers will have to return to the street to complete minor repairs and maintenance work to the street.

"I think our contractor and our subcontractors did a very good, quality project," Peterson said. "From all of our testing and inspection and monitoring of the work, we feel we've got a very high quality project here in Vermillion that should give an exceptional service life. We would hope to see 50 years from that work before any major reconstruction will have to be done again."

He praised the citizens of Vermillion for being patient with workers as they battled weather delays and were forced to re-route traffic to complete all of the improvements to the street during the past two years.

"Everybody has been really good to work with," Peterson said. "There were a few rocks in the road here and there, but that's common to work with during any construction project. The folks of Vermillion have been very accommodating, very friendly, the students and the city personnel have been very helpful, and the DOT is grateful for all of that."

Forum/ from page 1

"A big saying among Chinese students these days is, 'We are the world's factory,'" he said. "If you visit China, you certainly get a feel for that."

Currently, industry consists of approximately 49 percent of China's gross domestic product, followed by service industries at 40 percent and agriculture at 11 percent.

However, Dr. Xuejun Wang, a professor with the Division of Biomedical Sciences with the Sanford School of Medicine in Sioux Falls, pointed out that 80 percent of China's population is made up of farmers. Consequently, the majority of the population will be associated with the nation's major growth industries.

Compared with the farmers in China, "farmers here are rich," Wang said.

Additionally, Dr. Kaiyi Liu, assistant professor of marketing, said that for China to grow the way its leaders want it to, it is "going to need a lot of resources, and China does not have all those resources."

This could lead to problems with the United States, one of which could be its relationship with Iran, which it relies on for oil.

In other areas, though, China is becoming more progressive, Liu said.

"In the last year, China has really decided to go green," he said. "Of course, China is still

the number-one greenhouse gas emitter. It's still the most polluted country, but China's leadership has sort of come to a realization that China needs to go green. Otherwise their economic development won't be sustained."

One area in which China is still falling behind is how women are treated.

Dr. Lucy Dai, assistant professor of courtship and marriage, and criminology, said there is a still a disparity between how women in urban and rural settings are treated.

She said that while domestic violence remains a large issue in rural areas, women in cities suffer from a "glass ceiling effect" in relation to their wages.

The devaluation of women relates partially to China's "one-child policy," which dictates that couples in urban areas can only have one baby.

Rural parents are allowed two. This has led to some issues with parents who find they are expecting daughters rather than sons.

"It is now illegal for the doctors to tell the couple the gender of their baby," Dai said. "Some couples choose to have an abortion. If they have a baby daughter, they just choose to have an abortion. If they have a baby boy, they will keep that baby."

Liu said learning more about China could be beneficial for students in the future.

"I think it's good for you to pay attention to what's happening in China, because you're going to be competing with students from there," he said. "Learn some Chinese culture, some Chinese language. That will offer you a competitive advantage."

The forum was sponsored by the Beacom School of Business.

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