

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency
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For Immediate Release
October 16, 2008

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Suspension of Ten-Acre Minimum for Commodity Programs

(Davis, CA) Oct. 16, 2008 — Farm Service Agency announced today that farms of less than ten acres will still be eligible for USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) for the 2008 crop year. Also the deadline for 2008 DCP signup for farms with ten base acres or less of covered commodities has been extended to November 26, 2008.

Congress voted to temporarily set aside a new Farm Bill provision that restricted eligibility for these commodity programs to farms of ten acres or more. That congressional modification enacted in House Resolution 6849 applies only to the 2008 crop year. The Farm Bill, officially known as the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted on June 18, 2008. HR 6949 was enacted on October 13, 2008.

Note that the extended deadline for 2008 DCP signup applies only to farms with ten base acres or less. And for crop years 2009 through 2012, the ten acre minimum eligibility restriction will still apply. Producers with questions should contact their local Farm Service Agency office. For assistance in finding your nearest FSA office visit the FSA California website www.fsa.usda.gov/ca.

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