

Olson Ag Law Update

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This issue of Olson Ag Law Update provides new information on the 2014 Farm Bill and links to information and tools that can help producers and landowners make their required farm program elections.

Farm Bill Information and Tools

The Farm Service Agency has now posted on its website key information needed for farmers to make decisions under the 2014 Farm Bill. This information includes:

- Projected 2014 Payment Loss Coverage (PLC) program payment rates.
- Average county yields for all crops for all counties in the country for use in the Agricultural Risk Coverage – County Average (ARC-CO) program.
- Projected 2014 prices for ARC-CO.
- Link to a Base Reallocation Tool to determine updated bases.
- Link to a Yield Update Tool to calculate updated yields.
- Link to two tools (NAAFP and NCPE) that help farmers choose between the PLC and ARC programs and evaluate their crop insurance options.

Here is the website. This is the best source of Farm Bill information published to date:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=arpl&topic=landing>

Schedule for Farm Bill Elections and Signups

FSA has announced the following dates for signing up for the new programs and making the elections required under the Farm Bill.

- Deadline for landowners to reallocate bases and/or update yields: **February 27, 2015**
- Deadline for producers to make PLC/ARC election for each crop: **March 31, 2015**
- Deadline for producers to sign a program contract: **TBA – Spring/Summer 2015**

Landowners should have already received a letter from FSA providing a summary of their current base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history. Landowners and producers should review this letter and notify FSA immediately if they find that any of this information is incorrect.

Producers and landowners should not wait until the deadlines to make their elections. They may do so at any time by going to their FSA County Offices. Producers will also have to provide FSA with the following documents:

- AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification
- CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan
- CCC-901 Members Information
- CCC-941 AGI Certification
- Copies of leases for cash leased farms

Please read further on next page

OLSON AG LAW PRACTICE AREAS

Most of you know that I do a lot of work on farm program matters including payment limitations planning, USDA administrative appeals and federal litigation. You may not know that my practice also includes the following:

- Water Law
- Crop insurance arbitration and litigation.
- Conservation easement planning and drafting.
- Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act litigation.
- Farm finance planning and litigation.
- Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies.
- Farm transition (estate) planning.
- Representation of farmers in commercial disputes including landlord tenant matters.
- Advice and representation on other specialized areas of agricultural law.

Please give me a call if you think I may be able to help you with any of these matters.

Disclaimer: All of the information provided in this Update is of a general nature and may not be applicable to your farming operation, transaction or dispute. This information should not be substituted for advice from a competent attorney who is familiar with the specific facts of your case, transaction or situation.