

Local News

USDA Announces One-Time Sign Up Period For Enrollment in Production Flexibility Contracts Under New Farm Legislation

Malone, NY, April 24, 1996 - Bob McCarthy, County Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, announced the one-time sign up period of May 20th through July 12 for producers wishing to enroll their farms in a Production Flexibility Contract. The contracts, authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill, are for 7 years, beginning in 1996 and ending in 2002.

This is the only opportunity producers are going to have to enroll. Those who fail to do so between May 20th and July 12th will not be eligible at a later date.

The 1996 Farm bill restricted sign-up for Production Flexibility Contracts to a one-time opportunity. The only exception will be for land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program. Congress did not give the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to extend the sign-up period or open up additional sign-up periods at a later date.

Farms with a planting his-

tory in one of the past five years of wheat, corn, barley, or oats are eligible to be enrolled in this program. A history of this reported acreage filed by producers between 1991-1995 is on file in the Franklin County Farm Service Agency.

Producers are also reminded that compliance with conservation and wetland provisions continues to be a condition of participation.

Payment limitation rules that were applicable in 1995 will also be applicable to these payments. Farmers may plant as they wish under the program, but fruits or vegetables may not be planted on contract acres, except under certain circumstances. A producer may enroll all or part of the farm's contract base acreage in the program and, after sign-up, may request a permanent reduction in the acreage without penalty.

Payment and loan rates will be announced soon.

USDA Reopens Catastrophic Crop Insurance Sales

Malone, New York, April 24th, 1996 - Bob McCarthy, County Executive Director Farm Service Agency announced today that producers of spring planted crops have until May 2, 1996, to obtain catastrophic risk protection coverage.

Secretary Glickman exercised his authority under the new farm bill to provide producers with the maximum amount of time to evaluate their risk management needs. Given the diminished safety net in the new farm bill, producers will need crop insurance now more than ever to secure credit and manage risk.

The reopened sales period for catastrophic risk protection coverage only applies to spring planted crops (corn, oats, and potatoes).

The farm bill also changes the requirement that producers obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance, called "linkage". Beginning with all 1996 crops, producers are not required to obtain crop insurance, provided the producer signs a waiver waiving the right to receive any emergency crop loss assistance on any insurable crop, excluding emergency loans. Failure either to sign a waiver or obtain crop

insurance will result in denial of commodity program benefits, the conservation reserve program, and certain farm credit programs.

If a producer elects to cancel insurance coverage, a producer must sign a waiver giving up his or her right to emergency crop loss assistance for future disasters. Crop disaster assistance is no longer available for insurable crops. Producers are urged to keep their crop insurance protection since droughts, floods, and other natural disasters are a constant threat.

During the extended sales period, producers may obtain catastrophic risk protection coverage from either the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or a private crop insurance agent. Producers may provide notice of cancellation of a policy that had been in effect for the previous year to the insurance provider that issued the policy so long as the acreage reporting date for that crop has not yet passed. Waivers of a producer's right to receive any emergency crop loss assistance will be available at Franklin County FSA Office.

Ontario Minister Mushinski Plans Visit to Akwasasne

(Akwasasne, April 30, 1996) The Hon. Marilyn Mushinski, Ontario Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation is scheduled to visit Akwasasne on Friday, May 3, 1996, to tour the recently built A'nowara'ko:wa Arena on Cornwall Island.

Minister Mushinski, MPP for Scarborough-Ellesmere, will be in the area to participate in events planned for the Special Olympics being hosted in Cornwall on May 2-5. Minister Mushinski, will take advantage of the opportunity to travel to Akwasasne at 12:00 noon on May 3rd to meet with representatives of the Mohawk Council of Akwasasne and tour the new Arena.

The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena was constructed during 1994-1995 at a cost of \$5.1 million and was officially opened on September 14, 1995. The Ontario Government through the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation contributed \$2,018,000 towards this Project under the provisions of a cost-sharing agreement between the Governments of Canada, Quebec and Ontario. The Memorandum of Agreement struck between the Governments provided the Mohawk Council of Akwasasne with \$25

million from 1990 to 1996 to construct several much needed facilities in the community.

"The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena is a magnificent example of the workmanship and pride of the Mohawk people. The Arena will be the focal point for bringing our community together to enjoy the facility and to watch our children acquire the skills and learn the principles of sportsmanship, dedication and perseverance on the ice and the Lacrosse floor," declared Grand Chief Russell Roundpoint.

The Arena can accommodate up to 2,000 spectators with seating for 900. The Arena has just completed a very busy first season of ice operations and will now be used extensively by all levels of Lacrosse organizations including the Akwasasne Minor Lacrosse Association, the Akwasasne Lightning Junior Lacrosse Club, the Akwasasne Thunder Senior Lacrosse Club and the Akwasasne Old Sticks (Masters Over-35) Lacrosse League.

Contact: Lewis Morris, Inter-Government Liaison, Mohawk Council of Akwasasne (613) 575-2348

Roundpoint Construction Expands Into Retail Market

by Doug Buchanan

CORNWALL ISLAND - Breathing new life into an area landmark, Bruce Roundpoint and Roundpoint Construction have renovated the deserted Benedict Lacrosse Factory. Roundpoint is scheduled to open the Island's first home improvement, building, and improvement center this Saturday.

With a grand opening scheduled sometime in the near future, the store, located across the Mohawk School (on the Island) will offer everything needed to build, fix up, or landscape a home.

According to Roundpoint Construction's Renee Sunday, the store will offer competitive, tax-free pricing on items such as lumber, roofing, siding, power tools,

doors, windows, kitchen cabinets, flooring, carpeting, and landscaping materials.

The goal, says Sunday, is to help homeowners to stretch their dollars and get the most for their money.

With Vanessa Smoke taking the helm as the retail outlet's manager, doors are set to open Saturday. Although a few new employees have already been hired, applications for employment are still being accepted.

While official store hours have not yet been decided upon, Roundpoint explains that the business will be open weekdays and at least until noon on Saturdays.

More information is available by calling (613) 933-9800.

