



August 2010

Kern county FSA News

SURE

Currently applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the 2008 crop year. The deadline for 2008 SURE program applications is COB **September 30, 2010.** **There are no provisions for late file applications.**

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster which were incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions which trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop which has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so producers are not

paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and Q and Q are also available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Please call the FSA Office at (661) 336-0967 to make an appointment if you wish to review your files and/or sign up for SURE.

All applications not filed by close of business, regardless of the reasons why, will not receive a payment because of lack of funding.

CRP Sign up Opened August 2nd

Competitive sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) opened on August 2, 2010. From that date through August 27, 2010, producers may offer eligible land for this program. USDA is authorized to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Enrollment is likely to exceed the acreage limit.

CRP provides conservation practices which preserve the soil, clean water, and restore wildlife habitat. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers in exchange for annual rental payments, cost share and technical assistance. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long term contracts for 10 to 15 years.

All interested farmers and ranchers should contact the local FSA office soon to learn more about this program.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, FSA has a power of attorney form available which enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

**USDA
Kern County FSA**
5000 California Ave
Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 336-0967

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nathan Maragoni
District Director

Joann Esser
County Executive Director

Tom Hunton, Farm
Loan Manager

Albert Ghilarducci
COC Chairperson

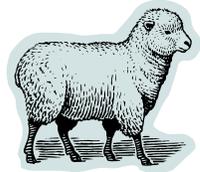
Ken Paul
COC Vice Chairperson

Ben Ansolabehere
COC Voting Member

Jeff Bowen
COC Voting Member

Catherine Fanucchi
Minority Advisor





**Non Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
2011 Application Closing Dates**

All other annuals	3/1/11
Apples	1/31/11
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts	
NOTE: Coverage no longer available for young trees.	12/15/10
Fall Planted Garlic	10/1/10
Processed Onions, Honey	12/1/10
Fall Planted Seed Crops	8/1/10
Forage Crops/Permanent Pasture Forage Crops, Intended Use of Forage, Hay (Mechanically Harvested)	12/1/10
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass,	9/1/10
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/10
2012 Crop Year Citrus Crops:	
Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos	1/1/11

NOTICES OF LOSS;

In case of damage to any NAP covered crop at least one producer having a share in the unit must file a Notice of Loss in the County Office:

- 1) For prevented planting claims within 15 days after the final planting date.
- 2) For low yield claims and allowable value loss the EARLIER of:
 - a) 15 days after the disaster occurrence, or date of loss or damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent

- b) 15 days after the normal harvest date.

REPORT OF ACREAGE FOR NAP

An annual acreage report must be submitted for each covered crop in the administrative county on or before the acreage reporting date.

This is a requirement whether a Notice of Loss is filed or not.

Production must also be submitted every year by July 15, of the following year to maintain your Actual Production History record. Failure to do so could be detrimental to your yield and affect any payments you may be eligible for on a year you may incur a loss.

This is also required whether a Notice of Loss is filed or not.

Bank and Account Changes

Current policy mandates FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA Office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA Office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

California USDA Emergency Farm Loans

Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside & San Bernardino (Contiguous Disaster Counties: Kern, Orange & San Diego) – On March 8, 2010, President Obama declared a disaster designation in six primary California counties based on damages and losses caused by severe winter storms, flooding, and debris and mud flows.

Effective March 8, 2010, EM loans are available to any eligible applicant with qualifying PRODUCTION LOSSES or PHYSICAL LOSSES in the counties named above. Loan approval will be contingent upon the availability of funds.

EM applications will be received through November 8, 2010. Please contact Tom Hunton, Farm Loan Manager at (661) 336-0967 ext 116 for more information.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, FSA direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged not to wait until the last minute to apply.

FSA staff will help you complete the application forms and help you understand what information is required and where to find it. Call your county office today.

Annual Notice to Producers

Payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by producer.

After 2009, a farm operating plan is **not** required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office.

If any changes occur which could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, foreign person, or average AGI determination, producers **must** timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as applicable.

Note: Failure to timely notify the County Office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

There are statutory provisions which require entities, earning program benefits which are subject to limitation, to provide the names, addresses, and TIN's of the entities' members to COC.

All applicable payment eligibility and payment limitation forms submitted by producers are subject to spot check through the end of year review process.

A determination of **not** actively engaged in farming results in the producer being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a de-

termination of actively engaged in farming.

Noncompliance with AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or by failure to submit a certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for **all** program benefits subject to AGI provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount which is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible person or legal entity in any legal entity, general partnership, or joint operation which receives benefits subject to the average AGI limitations.

Program Payment Type	Limitation (In Dollars) 2009-2012
Commodity Programs	
Counter cyclical and ACRE payments on covered commodities except peanuts	\$65,000
Direct payments on Covered commodities except peanuts	\$40,000
Conservation Programs	
CRP annual rental payment	\$50,000
EQIP (all contracts for FY 2009-2012)	\$300,000
WRP	\$50,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
ELAP, LFP, LIP, and SURE	\$100,000
NAP	\$100,000
TAP	\$100,000
Price Support Programs	
LDP, MAL, and MLG	No Limits

Kern County FSA Office
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 Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711



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Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
August 27	CRP General Sign up Closes
September 30	SURE – 2008 Crop Year Deadline
Ongoing	MILC Signup
Ongoing	Tree Assistance (TAP) Signup
See Chart Inside	NAP 2011& 2012 Citrus Coverage
Ongoing	NAP-Notice of Loss - The earlier of :
	15 Days After Natural Disaster Occurrence
	Loss Becomes Apparent
	Or 15 Days After the Normal Harvest Date

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."