



August 2010

Solano-Napa FSA News

USDA-FSA Solano-Napa County

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Dixon CA 95620
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed Federal Holidays

County Staff

Lynda Janne, CED
Laura VanHoose
Bonita Nogales
Bob Currey
Jan Durante

County Committee

Linda Neal LAA1
Richard Hamilton LAA2
Tom Galindo LAA3
Craig Nakahara Advisor

County Committee Scheduled Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each
Month, 1:00 PM, at
1170 N Lincoln St, #109
Dixon CA 95620



2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Deadline

The **deadline** for 2008 SURE program payment applications is **COB September 30, 2010**. **There are no provisions for late-file applications.** Applications **not** filed by **September 30, 2010**, regardless of the reasons why, will **not** receive a payment because of lack of funding.

If you suffered a 2008 crop loss, and have not yet applied for the SURE program, **contact this office immediately** for more information. Please review the detailed information in the following article.

One of the requirements for the SURE program is coverage of all crops on all farms by either multi-peril crop insurance through private insurance companies, or the non-insured assistance program (NAP) through the local FSA office. The SURE program is in effect through 2011. Protect your interests by assuring you have coverage for the upcoming years.

For crops that are not covered by crop insurance, following are the final dates by which you can purchase NAP coverage for 2011:

- 8/1/10: Fall Planted Seed Crops
- 9/1/10: Forage Seed, Garbanzo Bean
- 10/1/10: Fall Planted Garlic
- 12/1/10: Onions / Honey
- 12/1/10: Forage Crop for forage/grazing
- 12/15/10: Fruit/Nut Tree Crops
- 3/1/11: Spring Seeded Annuals

Detailed information about NAP can be found on pages 2 and 3.

SURE Program details

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

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 conditions 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 that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

USDA's Farm Service Agency's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. As authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), effective May 22, 2008, the average nonfarm adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation of the eligible producer cannot exceed \$500,000 to be eligible for NAP.

To be eligible for NAP, crops must be noninsurable and commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

Please contact a crop insurance agent if you have questions regarding insurability of a crop in your county. For further information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

An eligible natural disaster is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- an adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

The natural disaster must occur before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. **The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA state committee.**

The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. This fee is authorized by the 2008 Act. It replaces the previous service fee of the lesser of \$100 per crop or \$300 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$900 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

The coverage period for NAP may vary depending on whether the producer grows annual, perennial or value-loss crops.

The coverage period for annual crops begins the later of:

- 30 days after application for coverage and the applicable service fees have been paid; or
- the date the crop is planted (cannot exceed the final planting date)
- and ends the earlier of:
- the date the crop harvest is completed;
- the normal harvest date for the crop;
- the date the crop is abandoned; or
- the date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

The coverage period for perennial crops, other than those intended for forage, begins 30 calendar days after the application closing date and ends the earlier of:

- 10 months from the application closing date;
- the date the crop harvest is completed;
- the normal harvest date for the crop;
- the date the crop is abandoned; or
- the date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

To remain eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop acreage information must be reported annually:

- name of the crop
- type and variety
- location and acreage of the crop
- share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop;
- type of practice used to grow the crop
- date the crop was planted in each field; and
- intended use of the commodity

Producers should report crop acreage shortly after planting (early in the risk period) to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost.

In addition, producers must annually provide the following production information:

- the quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;

- the disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and
- verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required by FSA).

Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region.

Your approved yield may be calculated using substantially reduced yield data if you do not report acreage and production, or report fewer than 4 years of crop production.

When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local FSA office and complete Part B, (the Notice of Loss portion) of the application, which is Form CCC-576, the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment. **This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the:**

- natural disaster occurrence;
- final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster;
- date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

To receive NAP benefits, producers must complete Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss and Application for Payment, parts D, E, F as applicable, and G, no later than the immediately subsequent crop year acreage reporting date for the crop. The CCC-576 requires producers to provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

The natural disaster must have either:

- reduced the expected unit production of the crop by more than 50 percent; or
- prevented the producer from planting more than 35 percent of the intended crop acreage.

Expected production is the amount of the crop produced in the absence of a natural disaster. FSA compares expected production to actual production to determine the percentage of crop loss.

NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Risk Management Purchase Requirement

Noninsurable commodities on a farm are required to have NAP coverage in order for producers on that farm to be eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

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

Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA or a similar organization.

The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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 1170 N Lincoln St #109
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Feds, Farmers & Friends Feed Families Program

Tough economic times mean needy families across America are increasingly turning to emergency food assistance agencies (food banks, pantries and soup kitchens) to put food on the table at the same time these agencies are experiencing a decrease in donations.

USDA is sponsoring the Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families program. Our office has a box where you may leave non-perishable food items through August 31 to be donated to a local food closet. Next time you're in town, drop by with your donation!

Selected Interest Rates for August 2010		Dates to Remember	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.5%	September 1	NAP Deadline: forage seed
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%	September 6	FSA Offices Closed
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	1.5%	September 30	2008 SURE Deadline
Emergency	3.75%	October 1	NAP Deadline: fall garlic
Farm Storage Facility 7-yr	2.5%	October 11	FSA Offices Closed
10-yr	3.0%	November 11 & 25	FSA Offices Closed
12-yr	3.375%	December 1	NAP Deadline: onions, honey hay crops and pasture
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%	December 15	NAP Deadline: Fruit/Nut tree crops

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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."