



STEVENS COUNTY FSA  
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**August 2010**

**Office Hours: Monday- Friday 8:00 to 4:30**

### General CRP Signup

A enrollment period of August 2, 2010 to August 27, 2010 has been announced for general CRP. Eligible acres include acres expiring in 2010 as well as those that expired in 2009 and did not receive an extension. New acres can as well be offered.

This signup does not include acres expiring in 2011, 2012 or further

The cropping history rules have changed, the acres offered must have been cropped or considered crop 4 out of 6 years from 2002 to 2007.

The process will consist of an offer process just as previous programs. However it limits acres to have 1 of the following:

- Be located on a soil with an EI of 8 or greater
- Be located in a Critical Priority Area (CPA)
- Be enrolled in a CRP contract that expires in 2010

All new contracts will be required to complete a management practice on all acres, once in the lifetime of the contract. The management practices are light disking, interseeding, burning, managed haying, or managed grazing. Depending on the CRP practice the acreage is signup in, which management practice is allowed.

Please contact the FSA Office to set-up an appointment or to answer questions. Also please keep in mind the deadline for participation, as it is quickly approaching.

### Mowing CRP

Mowing CRP is prohibited. Many producers like to mow around the edges of circles to keep the weeds down and to make harvest easier. However this is a violation. CRP cannot be mowed for that purpose.

Mowing is only allowed for controlling weeds. It DOES NOT include mowing the whole field. Mowing MUST be approved by the FSA office, or the contract will be in violation.

### Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

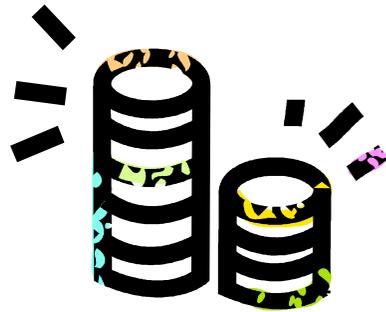
### SURE DEADLINE

A deadline of September 30, 2010 has been announced on the 2008 SURE program. SURE is the new crop disaster program that the 2008 Farm Bill announced.

For producer's to be eligible for SURE benefits, they would have had to have crop insurance on all acres they farm in 2008.

The FSA office gets a download from RMA that shares the crop insurance data, to allow data entry based on the losses that occurred in 2008. Therefore the producer does not have to provide any documentation.

To be eligible for benefits, the producer has had to request benefits BEFORE September 30, 2010. **If the producer or landowner has not contacted the county office, an application will not be ran.**



### Farm Changes

As a new crop year is quickly approaching please remember we need to have up to date current information on file concerning your farm.

When land is sold or purchased the county office needs a copy of the deeds as well as the information from the new owner(s).

To ensure correct and timely program benefits are earned, notification of these changes need to be timely.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in 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 program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 voice or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## **Successor-In-Interest**

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

## **NAP Coverage**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

September 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Speltz, Turf Grass Sod, and all Small Grain Crops, except Wheat, Oats and Barley for grain.

The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

## **Foreign Landowner Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

