



August 2010

Cass County FSA News

Cass County
USDA Service Center

Cass County FSA
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
David Grabemeyer
Carl Sparks
Dan Stutsman
Esther Leach

County Committee meets
Third Thursday of the
month

Staff
Marcia J Collins, CED
Judi Kidman, PT
Zelda Cloud, PT
Rhonda Barnett, PT
Bruce Dean, PT



CRP General Signup 39

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis; however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place.

Producers can offer land for CRP general signup August 2 through August 27, 2010.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002-2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

Please contact the office to make an appointment.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup Continues

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that 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 are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A 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;
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or 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.

Cass County **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE. Signup is currently ongoing. **The deadline to apply is September 30, 2010.**

NAP Coverage

The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for small grains, fall mint, fall speltz and forage crops is September 30, 2010. The deadline for perennial crops is November 20, 2010.

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 with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.



Dates to Remember	
August 27	Deadline to make a CRP Offer
September 6	Office closed due to Labor Day Holiday
September 30	Deadline to apply for SURE
September 30	Deadline to purchase NAP for fall seeded crops and alfalfa
October 11	Office closed due to Columbus Day Holiday
November 20	Deadline to purchase NAP for perennial crops
December 6	Deadline to return LAA #2 Ballots
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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