



Isabella County News

**Isabella County
USDA Service Center**
Isabella County FSA
5979 E Broadway Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858
989-772-5927 (phone)
989-773-0480 (fax)

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

County Committee
Joyce Connors, Chair
Bill Brewer
Jim Judge, Jr.

Program Technicians
Becky Dickman
Kim Gibson-Leonard
Connie Moeggenborg
Colleen Schuldt

Farm Loan Officers
Betty Garrett
Jon LaPorte
Teresa Fejes

Farm Loan Manager
Jerry Spickerman

**County Executive
Director**
Bob Thompson

**County Committee
Meetings**

1st Tuesday of each
month

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi



Meeting Notice Roundtable Discussion 2008 Farm Bill Programs

On Friday, **March 13, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.** in Room 320 of the Isabella County Building representatives of FSA and MSU-E will be available to discuss 2008 Farm Bill Programs.

This is intended to be an update to last month's formal public meeting and will focus heavily on questions from the audience rather than a prepared presentation. Specific emphasis will be placed on the 2009 DCP Program and the new ACRE and SURE Programs.

While signup for the **2009 DCP** Program is available now (please call for an appointment) until the **June 1, 2009 deadline**, many details of ACRE and SURE are still not available, however, broad descriptions are as follows:

Supplemental REvenue Assistance (SURE)

SURE is a crop disaster program that offers supplemental revenue protection for a "whole farm" (all crops in all counties).

SURE compares "total expected crop revenue" to "actual crop revenue" with a payment being calculated at 60% of that difference.

Implementation of **SURE** in any given year requires that either the county receive a crop disaster declaration by the Secretary of Agriculture **or** the "whole farm" must have a 50% expected revenue loss. In addition, at least one crop of economic significance must suffer at least a 10% yield loss due to natural causes.

Economic significance means the expected revenue from the crop must be at least 5% of the total farm revenue.

To be eligible for **SURE** you are **required** to purchase either crop insurance, where available, or a NAP policy on every crop of economic significance on the "whole farm".

The deadline for these purchases for 2009 spring seeded crops is **March 16, 2009**.

- **Crop Insurance** - purchased through private agents (list available) for selected crops. Various coverage levels and options are available. Check with a private agent for more details.
- **NAP** – purchased through FSA for all crops not covered by Crop Insurance. NAP covers 50% (or greater) yield loss for an administrative fee of \$250 per crop per year with a maximum limit of \$750 per producer per county.

Note: Fees may be **waived** for producers who qualify as a limited resource farmers or ranchers.

Under the **SURE** program it is possible for average or above average revenues in other crops to offset the revenue loss in one crop.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

ACRE is an FSA farm revenue safety net based on State yields and National prices against an individual FSA farm proven yield. **ACRE** payments are made when **both** State and FSA farm have incurred a revenue loss.

While you have a choice each year 2009-2012 to enroll in either DCP or ACRE once ACRE is elected (which requires landowners consent) it is an irrevocable decision for that FSA farm which will remain in ACRE for the balance of the Farm Bill.

ADDRESS CHANGES

FSA is now mailing county newsletters from a central site in Lansing.

If you receive multiple newsletters at the same address – or – are not interested in the material provided,

PLEASE

Let FSA know so that the necessary corrections can be made to future mailings

If you know someone who would benefit from this newsletter, please have them contact FSA.

ACRE and SURE Comparisons

ACRE applies to an FSA farm number
SURE applies to a whole farm operation

SURE requires crop insurance/NAP purchase
ACRE does NOT require crop insurance but voluntary purchase does increase FSA farm benchmark trigger (increases ACRE payment)

Both **ACRE** and **SURE** use the same Market Year Average prices in their calculations that the DCP counter cyclical Program uses. None of the crop values will be known until after the marketing year for that crop is completed. – .

For example, the 2009 crop Corn or Soybean price will not be known until September 2010 therefore any potential **ACRE**, **SURE** or **CC** payment can not be made until September 2010.

Dates to Remember

March 13	2008 Farm Bill Programs roundtable discussion meeting 1:30 P.M. – Room 320 Isabella County Building
March 16	Crop Insurance sales deadline (sold through private agents) Noninsured crop sales deadline (sold through FSA)
March 21	National Quilt Day
June 1st	2009 DCP Program Signup Call for an appointment (989) 772-5927

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