

# CLARK COUNTY NEWS



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## Are you InSUREd?

Most everyone has heard there is a new program now referred to as "SURE". The 2008 Farm Bill created a permanent disaster program to replace the "ad hoc" disaster programs of past years. The name of the program is Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments or "SURE" for short. This revenue based program uses a formula to compare the expected revenue to actual revenue for the **entire** (includes all acreage in all counties) farming operation.

At a minimum, to be eligible for SURE Program, you must have purchased insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for each insurable crop on the farm AND have coverage on noninsurable crops (hay, pasture, double-crop beans, etc.) through the FSA noninsured crop assistance program (NAP). For 2008, if you currently do not meet this requirement, you may pay a "buy-in" fee in an amount equal to the applicable CAT

## Will SURE benefit me?

Just as it is when you purchase any insurance policy, you never know if you're going to need it, and if you do, you don't know what it's going to pay until your losses have been determined.

For qualifying producers, if the Total Crop Revenue is less than the SURE guarantee, the SURE payment makes up 60% of the difference.

The SURE guarantee is approximately 115% of your crop insurance guarantee for insured crops and 120% of your NAP guarantee for crops covered by NAP. Producers without insurance that pay the "buy-in" level fee will have a guarantee similar to producers with CAT or NAP coverage.

## SEPTEMBER 16 - SURE application deadline

fee and/or NAP fee for those lands that currently do not have either a crop insurance policy or NAP coverage. The fee(s) must be paid by close of business September 16, 2008. NOTE: The "buy-in" fees do not provide any coverage but only allow you to gain eligibility to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Programs Eligibility requirements.

2008 "BUY-IN" Fee: \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer, for all counties, less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. These fees and limits apply to both CAT and NAP covered crops. The fee(s) is waived for producers who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher.

### Total Crop Revenue is the sum obtained by adding:

\*The estimated actual value of each crop produced on a farm by multiplying the: actual crop acreage harvested X estimated actual yield X national average market price for the marketing year for each crop (*a 12 month average price that is set by the Secretary at the end of the marketing year*)

\*plus 15 percent of any direct payments issued + the total amount of all counter-cyclical or average crop revenue payments + the total amount of all marketing loan proceeds (including certificate gains) + the total amount of all crop insurance or NAP indemnities + the value of any other natural disaster assistance payments for the same loss.

Adding these calculations give you the Total Crop Revenue for the SURE **ESTIMATED** Payment Calculation.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

## 2009 Non-Insured Crops

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late about the 2009 risk management purchase requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. The National Farm Service Agency office (FSA) has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) activity for 2009. **As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.**

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.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for rye, barley, apples, grapes, peaches, honey, Christmas trees, mushrooms, in **Missouri, is December 1, 2008.**

Deadline for alfalfa, mixed grass hay/pasture, and double crop soybeans is March 15, 2009.

For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees will increase from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750/county; \$1,875/producer for all counties.

## Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Producers who suffered damage to cropland and/or structures, due to flooding and heavy rains in June, may be eligible for cost-share assistance.

There are 3 practices available:

- EC-1: Removing Debris from Farmland
- EC-2: Grading, Shaping, Releveling
- EC-3: Restoring Structures

**Signup ends October 2.** When you come in to apply, you will need to show us on an aerial photo what the damage is and where.

Some reminders:

- Must have \$1000 worth of eligible damage to be eligible. The \$1000 threshold is not by farm but by producer.
- Cost-share assistance is up to 75% of the average cost.

- Cost-share assistance to rehabilitate farmland shall not be more than 50% of the agricultural market value as determined by the County Committee
- Levees are not eligible for assistance through ECP. Sand deposits must be over 6" deep.
- We are required to make a site visit before you start clean up or repairs to determine eligibility. FSA or NRCS must complete an environmental assessment also at that time. We will make another visit after you notify us you have the practice complete.



*Assistance may be available for repairing damage due to heavy rains and flooding received in June 2008.*

September 30:  
Last day to purchase 2009  
WHEAT Insurance

(Available through an insurance agent.)

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

## 2008 DCP Signup Ends September 30

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is

below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate). To be eligible for DCP payments, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acres;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;
- comply with planting flexibility requirements;
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities;
- **protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.**

## Haying/Grazing CRP

CRP participants may release their CRP acreage for haying or grazing. A payment reduction of 25% of the annual rental payment times the number of acres actually hayed or grazed will be assessed. The assessment may be paid in advance or deducted from the annual CRP payment.

BEFORE haying or grazing CRP, you must sign a request at the FSA office and obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS.

CRP participant must report to the FSA office when haying/grazing is done. Participants will need to report the # cattle grazed and/or total tons of hay baled.

Measurement service will be required when part of a field(s) is hayed or grazed. The minimum fee for measurement service is \$46.

Any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of the haying/grazing will be re-established at the CRP participants expense.

	DATES TO REMEMBER
September 16	Last day to "buy-in" to 2008 SURE, EALHF, LFP, or TAP programs
September 30	Deadline to sign up For 2008 DCP program  Last day to hay/graze CRP
October 2	Last day to apply for ECP
October 31	Hay bales are to be removed from CRP
December 1	County Committee election ballots due in County Office

Clark County FSA  
RR1 Box 16A  
Kahoka, MO 63445

*Official Business*

Clark County FSA  
Open Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

Bev Barrows  
Harold Hall  
Matt Plenge

Farm Program Technicians:

Kim Gates Nancy Webster  
Kim Meinhardt Caren White head

Farm Loan Staff:

Kurt Shelangoski, FL Manager  
Bill Bonine, FL Officer  
Karma Hillyer, Program Technician

County Executive Director: Sharon E. Marks

## County Committee Election

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as; commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors.

This year the townships of Folker, Grant, Jefferson, and Sweet Home (LAA1) will be electing a representative. Bev Barrows has served the maximum term and is ineligible for re-election. Barbara Parrish has been nominated for representative of LAA1.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters **by Nov. 3**. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is **Dec. 1**.
- Newly elected county committee members take office **Jan. 1, 2009**.

For detailed information about FSA county committees visit the county office or go on-line at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

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