



United States
Department of
Agriculture



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Nodaway County News

Nodaway County Farm Service Agency

Nodaway County FSA

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Hours

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

County Committee

Joyce Ecker, Chairperson
Larry Tobin, Vice Chair
Richard Fletchall, Member

Staff

Tim Dreier, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Tom Shelton, FLO
Marianne Adkins, PT
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Judy Fast, PT
Tammy Luke, PT
Re'nee Schrader, PT
Lindsey Decker, Intern
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Issue Highlights

- DCP Sign up begins
- 2008 ECP Sign up
- 2007 ECP Deadline
- LCP/LIP Deadline
- SURE Disaster Program
- CDP Quality Program
- Crop Reporting Extension
- COC Nominations
- CRP Critical Feed Use
- FLP Beginning Farmer Loans
- Dates to Remember

Nodaway County Producers:

Well we went several months without a newsletter and now you get two in consecutive months. Sorry to clutter your mailbox but there is just too much new information to not share it with you.

Since the previous newsletter we have begun sign up for the 2008 DCP program, been approved for 2008 ECP, implemented "SURE" the new disaster portion of the farm bill, extended the crop reporting deadline, begun the CDP Quality sign up, implemented CRP SAFE, and had several deadlines established on current programs that will expire soon. What does this mean to you the producer? It means there are a lot of programs currently being administered that you need to be aware of. I urge each of you to thoroughly read this newsletter to make sure you have the knowledge you need to utilize FSA programs properly.

All these programs running at the same time also means that we are very busy in the office as well. While we have not typically done it in the past it may save valuable time for both you and the office if you call to make an appointment or at least let us know you are coming in. That way we can try to be prepared when you arrive. I want to thank each of you in advance for your patience and understanding during this very busy time.

Tim Dreier

Farm Bill Sign-Up June 25 –Sept. 30 2008

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through **September 30, 2008**. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner or owners are eligible as a Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm **Owner** – if the owner is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by Husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. *(A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities and a Limited Resource farmer for our area is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$116,800 and has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$19,350 in the previous 2 yrs.)*



Producers may request a 22% advance DCP direct payment for 2008 beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conserving use, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, file an acreage report and if participating in ACRE, beginning in 2009, a production report.

The '08-'12 crop base acres and farm payment yields in our area will remain the same. Direct Payments and price protection are only slightly less. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed: the non-farm income cap for eligibility to receive program payments were dropped to \$500,000 and reduces the cap on farm income to \$750,000. Direct & counter-cyclical payments are capped similar to '07 at \$40,000 & \$65,000 but are capped at \$32,000 & \$75,000 if participating in ACRE which is a new Average Crop Revenue Election Program with a state-based revenue guarantee based on a 5-year state average yield and a 2-year national average price. It provides payments to farmers when the actual state revenue for a crop is less than its revenue guarantee. Preliminary 2009-12 rules & current regulations can be viewed on our website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Nodaway County Committee recently submitted a request to have the ECP program approved in Nodaway County for the recent flooding. The office was informed on June 30th that the request had been approved.

A sign up to implement the 2008 ECP program will begin on **July 14th and run through September 12th** for producers who suffered damage to cropland due to the flooding experienced in early June. The 2008 program will be administered much the same as the 2007 version with some slight variations on cost share rates. Some of the provisions are as follows:

- Must have at least \$1000 worth of damage
- Sand must be at least 6" in depth and ½ acre in size
- Drainage ditches must be silted in from this years storms not previous years
- 75% of the average cost will be cost shared on eligible practices
- Field inspections must be done by our office **BEFORE** the work is complete



2007 ECP



The office wants to remind producers who filed an application for 2007 ECP cost share that they have until **July 30, 2008**, to complete the work and submit the bills associated with the land restoration. All work related to the 2007 storms must be completed by that date or the application will be cancelled. If you have questions regarding your 2007 application, please contact the office at your earliest convenience.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have **until July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster. Eligible livestock include: Beef, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Swine, Equine and Poultry. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible. The average payment for an adult cow is \$10.66/head and for 500+lb calves is \$8.00/head).



Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)

There are many questions concerning the disaster portion of the Farm Bill and the SURE program in particular that we do not have answers for at this time. We do know that to be eligible the producer will be required to have **all crops** in all counties covered by NAP or insurance if applicable. Producers, for 2008 only, will have the opportunity to pay the fees now for 2008 for both CAT insurance and NAP (\$100 per crop) in order to get eligible for SURE assistance. We should have the capability to collect these CAT and NAP fees soon. Producers will not have coverage under NAP and insurance for 2008, the fees only allow them to be eligible for SURE. **The fees for 2008 must be paid by September 16th for a producer to be eligible for SURE.**

For 2009 and future years the fees would have to be paid by the regular sales closing deadlines and the producer would actually have coverage for NAP and/or Insurance.

SURE will not offer payments for specific crop losses, but rather will provide assistance for overall Revenue losses which is computed based on all commodities produced. Producers can be eligible if in a county that has a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are adjacent to one or if the producer has a greater than 50% loss regardless of county designation. The SURE program will not offer any immediate payments to producers who are suffering from the current weather conditions. Payments could not be computed until marketing prices and farm revenue can be computed sometime next year.

Crop Disaster Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up Begins

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

Also, sign-up for quality losses under the CDP has begun at the county offices. **For quality losses**, producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies. Quality loss participants **will be required to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the quantity, price AND quality factors.**

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended to August 15th.

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the deadline for 2008 only. Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP or apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Producers need to report all cropland on the farm including wheat, all planted spring crops, prevented planting, and failed acres, CRP, pecans, hay and pasture by **August 15th**.

You will need to bring your planting dates with you. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage & prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Acreage reported after the Aug 15 deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) has also extended the date for insured producers to file their insured acreage reports to Aug 15 but encourages producers to file reports at their earliest opportunity so claims can be worked. When reporting to RMA & FSA producers should identify any land coming into production that has not been cropped in the last 3 years to insure you meet sodbuster requirements. (Land in CRP is considered cropped)

Failed & Prevented Planting Acres: Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available as it has in past years. Currently Crop Disaster benefits through FSA are only available to producers who are insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) or have Non-insured Assist. Program (NAP) coverage through FSA on uninsurable crops.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Also a Notice of Loss Application must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

It is important that producers file a Notice of Loss Application to report crop losses before the disposition of the crop and within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent.

REMINDER: *Reported planted acreage and prevented planted & failed acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may be considered ineligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits. Producers may want to report your PP acres to your crop insurance agent first as RMA eligible PP acres for payment may be different than allowed PP acres for FSA (FSA max PP ac is max ac planted in any one of last 4 years)*

County Committee Nominations



Aug. 1 is the deadline for farmers to nominate themselves or eligible peers as candidates for election to the FSA County Committee. It is important for all agricultural producers to be represented, especially minority and beginning farmers. Committee persons play a vital role by helping local producers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. Nominees this year need to reside in Local Administrative Area II, which includes the townships of Atchison, Green, Hopkins, Lincoln, Nodaway, and Union. Nomination forms are available from your local USDA Service Center. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters Nov. 3rd and must be returned by Dec. 1. New members take office Jan. 1, 2009.

USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, **which is after July 15, 2008. All hay and livestock must be removed by Nov. 10, 2008.** This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008.

Prior to haying or grazing, producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75, per contract, for the modification of their CRP contract. No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use.

Haying is limited to 50% of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to useful life easements, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

Please call 660-582-7423, ext 2 for complete details and to schedule your appointment to sign up for the critical feed use option.



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Farm Loan Programs

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Loans

The Farm Service Agency has a beginning farmer real estate down payment loan program available to eligible farmers in Nodaway County. These loans are designed to work with other credit sources to provide the necessary credit to purchase farm real estate. With direct loan funding from FSA being limited this loan this loan program has been developed to allow lenders – working with FSA – to extend credit to purchase farms with a lower amount of equity than would normally be required.

This is how the program works: The applicant must make a 5% cash down payment. FSA can provide 45% of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower. The interest rate on the FSA loan will be a fixed rate. The interest rate will be 1.5% or at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates, whichever is greater. Loan will be scheduled to be repaid in 20 years. Applicants must obtain other financing for the remaining 50%. The other 50% must have an amortization of 30 years, and could be guaranteed by FSA. The maximum FSA down payment loan is \$225,000.

These are the applicant requirements:

- Operate or will operate a family-sized farm
- Not currently own over 62 acres of farm real estate
- Have operated a farm for at least 3 years, but not more than 10 years
- Have an acceptable credit history
- Be unable to obtain the credit from another lender
- Have or project to have a financially viable farming operation
- Agree to participate in loan assessment, borrower training and financial management programs required by FSA
- Agree to refinance to conventional credit in the future
- Other requirements specific to individual circumstances may apply

Dates to Remember

July 14	'08 ECP signup begins
July 16	CRP Critical Feed haying/grazing begins
July 18	LCP/LIP Deadline
July 30	'07 ECP work deadline
August 1	COC Nomination ends
August 15	Crop Report Deadline
Sept. 16	SURE fee deadline
Sept. 30	2008 DCP deadline
Sept. 30	CRP Critical Feed sign-up deadline

Please visit the
 FSA Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov



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