



South Carolina State FSA Newsletter



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Announcing CRP General Signup, TAAF Program, and ending date for SURE Signup



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As we start the month of August I am sure that each of you has endured the extremely hot and humid weather. However, many parts of our state have had timely rains that have helped make good crops. Other areas are very dry and crops have suffered tremendously. South Carolina Farm Service Agency wants each of you to know that we are doing and will do all that we can to serve you in a friendly and efficient manner. We want you to succeed and it pleases us very much when you do. Please call or come into our offices if you need us to help you in any way. We have many programs that may be of help!

Conservation Reserve Program General Signup

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that a general CRP signup will be held from August 2, 2010 to August 27, 2010. Producers interested making an offer for this general CRP signup must apply during the signup period. Late filed applications are NOT accepted.

Basic Land Eligibility Requirements:

- The acres offered must be physically and legally capable of being cropped.
- The acres must be cropland that has been planted, or considered planted, to an annual commodity in 4 out of 6 years 2002-2007 or land that is currently in CRP that is expiring September 30, 2010.
- The offered acres must meet 1 or more of the following categories: (1) erodibility, (2) expiring CRP, (3) Conservation Priority Area. South Carolina has a Wildlife Conservation Priority Area covering the Counties of Darlington and Florence.
- Land under lifespan practice requirements of other programs, such as EQIP, is ineligible to be offered for CRP.

Basic Producer Requirements:

- Owned or operated the land being offered for the past 12 months.
- Be in compliance with FCIC requirements.
- Adjusted Gross Income for the applicant(s) does not exceed one million dollars.
- The applicant(s) have completed form AD-1026 certifying they have not sod-busted or swamp-busted.

Acceptability of Offers:

Offers for CRP are extremely competitive and will compete with offers throughout the Nation. Only offers that provide the greatest environmental benefit as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture will be accepted into the program. Producers can enhance their offers by:

- Planting to provide maximum wildlife habitat.
- Devoting 1 acre or a minimum of 10 percent whichever is larger of the offered acreage to pollinator plots.
- Offering a rental rate per acre less than the maximum rental rate allowed.

For detail information on the signup contact your local FSA office.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Program

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Program benefits have been approved for 2009 asparagus, 2009 catfish, and 2008 shrimp in South Carolina. Eligible producers of these commodities may submit application for program benefits with their local Farm Service Agency office through September 23, 2010.

This is not a disaster program. Producers of these three commodities were determined by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) administrator to have been adversely affected by imports. Producers of these three commodities may apply for technical assistance and cash payments under TAAF. Producers establish eligibility for these program benefits by submitting an application at their local FSA Service Center by September 23, 2010. FSA application (Form 229-1) and other needed documentation must be submitted by the closing date. Late applications will not be approved. The application form is available at FSA offices or at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taafoms.asp>.

Technical assistance is provided in three phases. Phase I, Initial Technical Assistance, is a locally scheduled 2 to 4-hour program orientation that explains how the program can help producers improve the yield and marketability of the affected agricultural commodity, determine the feasibility and desirability of substituting one or more alternative agricultural commodities for the commodity adversely affected by import competition, and offer advice and assistance on how to adjust to import competition.

A producer who completes Phase I is eligible to participate in Phase II, Intensive Technical Assistance, which is a series of workshops on marketing and production strategies, financial and business management, and alternative enterprises and business plan development. Phase II will prepare producers to develop an initial business plan and a long-term business adjustment plan to improve their competitiveness. Upon FSA's approval of the initial business plan, the producer is eligible to receive a maximum \$4,000 cash payment to implement his or her plan or to further develop a long-term business adjustment plan.

Phase III, Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan Training, provides individual assistance to complete and implement a long-term business plan. Producers that complete a long-term plan are eligible to receive up to an additional \$8,000 cash payment. The Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota schedules and administers local technical training. Most training will be conducted by local extension service specialists who also are responsible for reviewing business plans and recommending cash benefits provided under the program.

To be eligible for technical assistance and cash payments a producer must: 1) have produced the commodity during the specific marketing year for which the commodity was determined eligible and at least one of the three marketing years preceding that year; and 2) provide documentation to establish compliance with one of the following three options. Option 1: Did the applicant produce less of the commodity during the marketing year for which the petition is certified than during the most recent marketing year preceding the petition marketing year. Option 2: Did the applicant receive a lower price for production of the petitioned commodity during the petition marketing year compared to the average price received during the prior three years in which the commodity was produced. Option 3: Is USDA's county price for the petitioned commodity on the petition filing date less than USDA's average county price for the past three consecutive marketing years. For additional facts and requirements of this program, visit your local FSA Service Center. Information is

also available on the Foreign Agricultural Service Web site at www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa.

Signup for the 2008 SURE Program ends

The **deadline** for 2008 SURE program payment applications is **COB September 30, 2010**. **There are no provisions for late-file applications**. Applications **not** filed by **September 30, 2010**, regardless of the reasons why, will **not** receive a payment because of lack of funding. Producers with 2008 crop losses need to contact their local County Office by this date.

AUGUST INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	2.500%
Farm Operating – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership	4.625%
Farm Ownership – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

Please visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sc>

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