



NEWSLETTER



June 2011

Washington State FSA Office

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information can be found at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sto_dir.pdf
Or
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=wa&agency=fsa>

NOTICE: Due to funding cuts, no paper newsletters will be printed until October. Until then, an electronic newsletter will be posted on the FSA WA web site (around the 15th of each month).

ACRE Production Deadline Extension

The deadline to certify production for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program has been extended to September 1, 2011. Failure to report by this new deadline will result in forfeiture of all 2010 ACRE payments, including those already issued.

The ACRE fact sheet can be found at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/acre_2011_fact_sheet.pdf

Prompt Disaster Reporting

Prompt weather-related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster designations, and ultimately provide producer assistance. Producers should report damage to their county FSA office as soon as it becomes apparent.

Disaster designations trigger availability of low-interest loans and direct payments under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) for farmers and ranchers in a county. SURE benefits help offset the loss of farm revenue associated with the disaster year.

Producers are only eligible for SURE if they obtained crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for any crop of economic significance. NAP coverage is available through FSA for any crop that is not covered by Risk Management Agency crop insurance programs.

Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. They may also be used to pay essential living

expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.

Helpful documentation includes the specific location of farm damage, date and time of the disaster event, the type of damage (hail, wind, etc), what was affected and the estimated percent of loss. Photographic evidence of significant damage will also be helpful as both FSA and insurance agents use it in support of future program applications and cumulative damage reports.

Acres Reporting Deadline

Producers who participate in an FSA program are required to report crop acreage and land used to maintain eligibility for the DCP, CRP, NAP, SURE, and most livestock disaster programs. **June 30, 2011** is the final date to timely certify. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

Prevented Planting

Producers who have been unable to plant due to adverse weather need to timely report this acreage to their insurance agent if the crop is covered by FCIC.

If the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers the crop, farmers and ranchers must file a request for prevented planting credit by filing form CCC-576 along with on acreage report in the county office within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop.

Producers of insured crops are also encouraged to file prevented planting claims with FSA. Providing a timely claim with FSA will greatly reduce inconsistencies when it comes time to apply for the 2011 SURE program.

Late filed requests may be assessed a late fee to cover the costs associated with a

NAP Deadlines

2012 Crop Year

8/31/11 - Canola & rapeseed; onions, carrots and cabbage (for seed or fresh); value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, floriculture, mushrooms); artichokes and any fall planted crops not mentioned in any other closing date

9/30/11 - Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops; mint and wheat

11/20/11 - All Perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus); honey

required field visit to verify the disaster conditions. Filing a claim beyond this period may result in loss of benefits if an eligible disaster condition can no longer be verified by a field visit. Please contact your county office to report your prevented planted acres or be placed on a register to file a timely claim.

Failed Planting

Crops planted with intent to harvest and which suffer damage or failure due to a weather disaster may qualify for assistance. Producers of insured crops should work closely with their insurance agent to maximize their insurance coverage.

Producers of NAP covered crops must report by the earlier of 15 days of the disaster occurrence, 15 days after the loss becomes apparent, but no later than 15 days after the normal harvest date of the crop to remain eligible. Producers who plan to abandon, destroy, or put the acreage to another use, must file form CCC-576 and an acreage report with the county office to receive a release of the covered acreage. The release will be provided after a crop adjustor has visited the acreage and made an appraisal of expected production from the failed crop. Farmers and ranchers who intend to care for the crop and harvest the available production, are required to timely file a notice of loss, and then provide production records before payment can be earned on the acreage.

2009 SURE Sign up Deadline

The deadline for producers to submit applications for 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is **July 29, 2011**. The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on that day.

The SURE fact sheet can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_2011.pdf

NAP Deadlines

For the 2010 crop year, production information must be reported by **June 30, 2011**, under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This deadline is also the last day for producers to file a NAP application for payment on 2010 crop year losses.

Some of the basic eligibility requirements include annual reporting of crop acreages, providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis, obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

For 2012 crop year deadlines, please see the information in the far left column.

NAP coverage or federal crop insurance through the Risk Management Agency is a prerequisite for many FSA disaster programs.

A NAP fact sheet can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nap_08.pdf

CRP Reminders

CRP participants with contracts that started October 1, 2010, need to report completion of cover seeding to receive cost sharing.

Participants with contracts in their fifth-to-sixth year are required to conduct mid-contract management activities. These activities enhance or reinvigorate the cover. Producers can also obtain a waiver from their local county committee.

Weed control is also a priority for CRP contract-holders. Noxious weeds and other undesirable plant species can negatively affect acreage of the contract-holder and neighboring land. The annual rental payment generally includes some compensation for the costs of weed-removal. Failure to control weed populations can result in reduced payments, replanting requirements or in severe situations, termination of the CRP contract.

A General CRP fact sheet is located at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp07.pdf

A CRP haying and grazing fact sheet is at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crphayinggrazing2011.pdf

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