



NEWSLETTER



July 2011

Washington State FSA Office

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Hours

Monday - Friday
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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).

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. Losses reported more than 15 days after the damage occurs or becomes apparent can impact eligibility for some disaster programs.

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 on all crops 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.

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

AGI Reconciliation Process

In order to retain FSA program payments, producers must have an adjusted gross income verification consent form on file with the IRS.

These forms authorize the IRS to verify whether a payment recipient meets eligibility requirements for FSA programs. This form first became a requirement for producers in the 2009 crop year.

Principal operators are not the only people required to have these forms on file. Landlords must also have the required paperwork with the IRS for both parties to be eligible. For legal entities, all members of the entity must also file these forms. Without these forms on file, producers jeopardize receiving USDA program payments.

FSA is not the only agency affected by this verification process. Conservation payments and other programs through the NRCS could also be impacted. Any participant who did not file the form or did not have it accepted by the IRS will receive notification of program ineligibility later this year.

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

For more information on the income eligibility requirements or the corresponding verification process, contact your local FSA office. The adjusted gross income forms, [CCC-927](#) and [CCC-928](#), can also be downloaded from <http://fsa.usda.gov>.

NAP Deadlines

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered damage from natural disasters. A NAP policy can be obtained from FSA for any commodity not covered by crop-insurance.

The application fee for NAP coverage is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. In return, the crop is covered from catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting due to natural disaster conditions.

Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident. You may receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

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

NAP is also a requirement for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and other FSA disaster programs.

Contact the county office if you would like more information or are interested in applying for NAP coverage.

A NAP fact sheet can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nap09.pdf

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

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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