

Bourbon County Farm Courier



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Farm
Service
Agency

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Office Hours 8-4:30

Disaster Program – SURE

Based on damage assessment data submitted to USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture has made a disaster declaration for storm damage for some areas of Kansas. Six counties in Kansas were affected (including Bourbon County) as well as the neighboring counties (27 additional counties) that benefit from this declaration as “contiguous” counties.

For Bourbon County, the applicable storm event was the hail/wind/rain storm of July 8, 2009 that invaded the western portion of the county including the city of Bronson.



What does this disaster declaration mean for area producers? What assistance is in fact available?

The Farm Service Agency administers a couple of programs that are impacted by the Secretarial disaster declaration.

One option is Emergency Farm Loans through our Farm Loan division. Low interest rate loans can be made to farm operations suffering losses due to these declared disaster conditions. Sometimes, too, there are other FSA loan funds/programs available that can also be used to provide financing following a disaster.

The FSA Farm Loan staff serving Bourbon County (as well as Allen, Cherokee, Crawford, and Neosho) is headquartered in Girard and can be reached at the USDA Service Center, 207 S. Summit, or call 620-724-6227.

Another option made available by the Secretarial disaster declaration is the FSA administered Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program abbreviated “SURE.” SURE is the “permanent” disaster program included in the last farm bill. It is available when either 1) an Agriculture Secretary Designation is made; or 2) a producer’s total farm operation actual production is less than 50 percent of normal.

Since the county already has a Secretarial designation, the total loss computation is not needed for this year. Farm payments, then, are computed based on 60 percent of the crop guarantees. If total revenue falls below these levels, the difference is made up by SURE payments.

That last paragraph made the whole payment picture perfectly clear, right? Since each farm will have differing factors like yields, acres, crop insurance coverage, NAP coverage, etc, it is difficult to make a generalized example here that makes sense. The best way to evaluate the possible eligibility of a farm operation is to access the SURE program calculator on the USDA/FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Look in the Farm Bill section under “tools” for “SURE calculator” to get some individualized answers to possible SURE benefits. If you don’t have computer access or find the sledding difficult on the website, drop by our office and staff will offer assistance in the evaluation process.

Some things you need to know about SURE:

All crops (except grazing) of economic significance must be insured by either standard commercial crop insurance or by our Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) in order to qualify.

The program is a revenue based coverage program unlike disaster programs in the past. All crops and all farms are included in the calculations for eligibility.

Again, the program is revenue based – actual average market prices for the harvested crop will be used for eligibility and payment purposes following the crop marketing period, i.e. payments will not be made until this information is available.

FSA offices are not currently equipped to take SURE applications. However, agency-wide training is set for early October after which time we expect to be prepared for SURE requests.

For information about SURE, visit the agency website as shown above, or contact your local FSA office. We have some printed material that can help explain the program as well as the offer of staff assistance.

Payments Coming \$\$\$\$\$

Just a heads up! We are implementing a new centralized computer payment process with the October payments. Intentions are to issue DCP and CRP payments timely. Let us know if you get missed!

Committee Nominees – 2009

Nominations have been completed for a position on the three member Bourbon County FSA Committee. The area hosting the election this year is Local Administrative Area 2 which includes the townships of Timberhill, Freedom, Osage, Mill Creek, and Scott north of highway 54. Candidates for this year include Clifton Beth, Ed Karleskint, and Deanna Wade.



All currently active farm/ranch owners or operators are eligible to vote in this election. Ballots will be mailed out in early November, and must be returned to the applicable county FSA office by December 7, 2009. *Note: program power of attorneys cannot sign election ballots.*

Foreign Landowners Report

Owners of farm or ranchland who are not US citizens must report holdings and transactions to the USDA as required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. Foreign investors buying or selling land must report such transactions within 90 days of the date of the sale.

Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. FSA form FSA-153 is used for reports

Note: Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – report death losses within 30 days of occurrence.

that should be turned in to the FSA county office where the land is located.

NAP Closing Dates Ahead

The deadline is December 1, 2009 for FSA to accept applications under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) for the following crops: all grasses plus alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, mixed forage, oats, and honey.



Interested producers who may wish to participate must visit their local FSA office to complete an Application for Coverage and pay the applicable service fee by the sales closing date. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per county with an \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers.

This coverage entitles producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the covered crop if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent or greater production loss of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is required on harvested crops of economic significance in order to qualify for SURE coverage.

Note: DCP enrollment for 2010 will begin sometime after October 1. The deadline for enrollment will be June 1 for 2010.

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