



# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 Roger Barta Way  
Smith Center, KS 66967

*COUNTY COMMITTEE:*  
Darin Hawkins Chairperson  
Robert Koops Vice Chairperson  
Dianna Rice Member

Cary J. Tucker  
County Executive Director

**FROM THE HEART OF THE USA**

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

March 2010

## **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The SURE signup began January 4, 2010. Producers with significant production losses for crop year 2008 may be eligible for SURE payments. SURE payments are based on production losses on a producer's "Farm". "Farm" for SURE is defined as all crops in which a producer has an interest nationwide. To receive 2008 SURE payments the producer must have had all eligible crops insured through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or Federal Crop Insurance. Two exceptions to this rule are forage crops with a value less than \$3636 and forage crops with a value of less than 5 percent of the total value of all crops raised on the farm.

The SURE program has two eligibility criteria. The first is that the producer suffers at least a 50 percent production loss of all crops on the farm. The other is that the producer has suffered at least a 10 percent loss on one crop and the county has received a Secretarial Disaster designation. Smith County received a Secretarial Disaster designation for the 2008 crop year.

SURE payments are based on 60 percent of the difference between the farm's SURE guarantee and the total farm revenue. The SURE guarantee is based on Federal Crop Insurance and NAP coverage on the farm.

SURE program benefits will be available through the 2011 crop year. Producers must purchase NAP and Federal Crop Insurance on all eligible crops to receive SURE payments.

## **FARM LOANS AVAILABLE**

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit and who meet other regulatory criteria. Loans up to \$5000 are available to rural youths 10-20 years old to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Emergency loans are available to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared disaster areas by the President, or designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture or the FSA Administrator.

## **LIVESTOCK FEED PROGRAM (LFP)**

The LFP compensates eligible livestock producers for grazing losses caused by a drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county. An eligible livestock producer who owns or leases grazing lands physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as a:

- D2 (severe drought) county for at least 8 weeks during the grazing season is eligible for assistance in amount equal to one monthly payment
- D3 (extreme drought) county at any time in the normal grazing period is eligible for assistance in amount equal to two monthly payments
- D3 (extreme drought) county for at least 4 weeks during the grazing season or is rated as a D4 (exceptional drought) at any time during the grazing season is eligible for assistance in the amount of three monthly payments.

The LFP monthly payment rate is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock or the loss incurred by calculating the normal carrying capacity for all eligible livestock. The LFP payment rate is derived from the price of corn and the energy units required to sustain eligible classes of livestock. Eligible livestock include animals owned for at least 60 days prior to the beginning date of the qualifying drought (there are some exceptions) and include beef, dairy cattle, horses, goats and sheep.

To receive LFP benefits producers must purchase a policy for the grazed forage crop under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or file an acreage report, complete applicable eligibility forms and purchase Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage by the applicable closing date for grazing crops (December 1 for native grass for grazing). "Socially Disadvantaged", "Limited Resource" and "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" producers are not required to purchase NAP or equivalent Federal Crop Insurance grazing coverage.

Producers must file completed applications for payment, and required supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

Acceptable supporting documentation includes a reliable and verifiable inventory of grazing animals.

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### **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)**

The LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. Adverse weather includes floods, blizzards, disease that was exacerbated or caused by an adverse weather event, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Extreme heat and extreme cold is defined as a weather event that the cold and wind chill index or heat and humidity index significantly exceeds normal temperatures and humidity over a five day period. Extreme cold is also usually associated with high winds, freezing rain and or snow. Management practices and animal deaths from similar livestock producers are also reviewed to determine eligible animal deaths.

Because LIP pays on death loss only above normal mortality, producers must be able provide a verifiable and reliable inventory. The inventory may be derived from bank records, pen records, veterinary records and sales and purchase records. Examples of normal mortality rates are: adult beef cows 1.1%; and beef animals less than 400 pounds 2.7%. Eligible classes and kind of livestock eligible for LIP include: adult beef cow, adult beef bull,

beef 800 lbs or greater, beef 400 to 799 lbs, beef less than 400 lbs, dairy animals, equine, goats and sheep.

Applicants must provide adequate proof that eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an adverse weather event. The quantity, class and kind of livestock that died may be documented by: purchase records, bank or other loan documents, rendering truck tickets (this is the best method and should always be used if practical), pen records and private insurance documents. FSA will provide a paid for measurement service if other records are not available. Producers must submit a notice of loss the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days when the loss of the livestock became apparent or
- 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the animal deaths occurred.

Producers must have owned the livestock on the day the animal died from the adverse weather event.



### **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, & FARM-RAISED FISH PROGRAM (ELAP)**

ELAP provides emergency relief for eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish. Livestock losses covered are those not covered by LFP or LIP and are primarily but not exclusively related to the loss of harvested or purchased feed from an eligible adverse weather event such as blizzard, flooding, tornado or excessive wind and lightning. Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, equine, sheep and goats. Eligible honey bee losses are those losses caused by an eligible adverse weather event including but not limited to colony collapse disorder, tornado or excessive winds, floods and wildfires. Eligible adverse weather events for farm-raised fish losses include flooding, excessive winds and tornado, contaminated water (caused by the eligible weather event and covers death loss only), and excessive heat (death loss only).

Producers with eligible losses must do all of the following to receive benefits:

- Timely file an acreage report on all grazing land acreage, honey bee hives and farm-raised fish pond acres
- Obtain, if applicable, a plan of insurance equal to the Catastrophic (CAT) level of coverage and or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on ALL crops covered by the "Farm". "Farm" for ELAP purposes means the sum of all crop acreage, all fish and all bees and bee hives in all counties in which the producer has an interest.

Producers must own, lease or have entered into a contract to purchase 60 days prior to the beginning of the adverse weather event causing the loss. A notice of loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss occurred or when the loss became apparent and no later than 30 days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

Documentation of the loss must be verifiable evidence of the date of the feed purchase, name, address and telephone number of the feed vendor, cost of the feed, type and quantity of the feed purchased and signature of the feed vendor. Harvested feed loss documentation may include weight tickets, truck sales tickets, contemporaneous diaries and custom harvest documents. Honey bee producers must also provide a verifiable beginning and ending inventory of hive or colony numbers for the calendar year of the ELAP benefits.

### **GENERAL CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) SIGNUP LIKELY IN JUNE**

Producers will have an opportunity to offer highly erodible acreage for a CRP contract in a competitive general signup sometime in June. CRP contracts that expire September 30, 2010 will be allowed to make an offer to re-enroll this acreage. Eligibility rules have changed and only about 70 percent of expiring 2010 contracts will be eligible to submit an offer. Producers should be checking now, if they wish to re-enroll expiring contracts or submit a new offer, to see if the acreage meets eligibility criteria.