



# Douglas County FSA News

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## County Committee

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**August 2008**

### Loan Funds Still Available for FY 2008

FSA Farm Loan Programs still have funds available for both Operating (OL) and Farm Ownership (FO) loans for qualified applicants. Call Jim at 673-6071, ext 108 for more details.

### FSA Non-Insured ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Farm Service Agency provides catastrophic coverage for crops that are not insurable through a private crop insurance company. The cost of insurance is \$250 per crop, maximum of \$750 for all your crops in the county. The coverage begins at the later of 30 days after purchasing the insurance or the date the crop is planted. The insurance covers 50% of losses due to weather related conditions. The loss level is determined on the individual producers past production history. The deadline to apply for **NAP** coverage on the following crops has been extended for the **2009 crop year ONLY**:

December 1, 2008 (usually August 31): beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except peppermint), onions and radish.

December 1, 2008 (usually October 1): Alfalfa ,asparagus, barley, clover, garlic, grass, peppermint, hops, meadow foam, mixed forage, oats, rye, sugar beets, triticale, vetch, wheat

December 1, 2008 (usually November 20): Apples, apricots, blueberries, cane berries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, hazelnuts, honey, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts.

March 15, 2009: Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon.

March 31, 2009: Buckwheat

Crops that are insurable with private insurance companies in Douglas County are: Wheat, Oats, Field Corn, Grapes, Apples, Nursery, Barley, and the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite Program. Contact your private insurance representative for information relating to these crops and their deadlines to apply.

### 2008 CROP YEAR BUY – IN FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

#### **Background:**

Upon the enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill (The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008) it created 5 supplemental disaster programs. The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) that has been administered in the past remains in place and if you choose, you can still just enroll your crops to only be covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), see article above.

<b>(SURE)</b>	Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program
<b>(ELAP)</b>	Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm – Raised Fish
<b>(TAP)</b>	Tree Assistance Program
<b>(LFP)</b>	Livestock Forage Disaster Program
<b>(LIP)</b>	Livestock Indemnity Program

**(LFP) Livestock Forage Disaster Program** – Compensates livestock producers for **grazing** losses due to drought on native or improved pasture land intended for grazing. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands. Ranchers in counties with drought as designated by the USDA Drought monitor as severe, extreme or exceptional qualify for assistance. The drought monitor can be found online at <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

If you hay and graze SEPARATE land, losses to Hay production can be covered under SURE, if you meet the insurance requirements under SURE for all crops on the farm including the land that will be grazed.

If you graze and hay the SAME land then you will need to make a choice on what your primary intended use for disaster program benefits is. Separate NAP coverage cannot be provided on the same land for haying and grazing. If you choose haying then that land will not be eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, and you will still need to purchase coverage for other land that is only grazed to be eligible for SURE.

Something to consider for 2008: The Livestock Forage Disaster Program compensates for drought and fire on public lands. For the year 2008 to date the drought monitor has not indicated any drought in Douglas County.

**(LIP) Livestock Indemnity Program** – Covers livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates during the calendar year due to adverse weather.

**(SURE) Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)** – This is a whole farm revenue disaster program that covers crop quantity and quality losses. There are two trigger mechanisms to determine eligibility. 1<sup>st</sup> the county must be declared a natural disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture or be contiguous to a county that is declared. 2<sup>nd</sup> if the first criteria is not met the producer can be eligible for SURE if a total loss of production of the farm relating to weather is greater than 50% of the normal production on the farm.

If the Total Farm Revenue is less than the Program Guarantee then the payment will equal 60% of that difference.

**(ELAP) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish** - Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and Wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. The funds program used disburse funds are at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture and are limited to \$50,000,000 per year.

**(TAP) Tree Assistance Program** – Targets nursery and orchardists who suffer greater than 15% mortality due to disasters related to weather. Program provides financial support for replanting and cleaning up existing trees and preparing the land for replanting.

#### **Most important Eligibility criteria for the 5 programs:**

**SURE, TAP and ELAP** - All crops on the whole farm (including crops such as forage and honey) must be covered by federal crop insurance or NAP. The level of insurance must be at the CAT level, which is not less than 50% yield coverage at 55% of the insurable price. (A farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties)

**LFP** -requires producers to only insure their grazing land through NAP with the Farm Service Agency.

**LIP** is the only program which does NOT require any form of crop insurance or livestock coverage.

### **How do you become eligible for 2008?**

For 2008 ONLY, producer who were eligible to obtain the necessary insurance, but did not, can buy – in to be eligible for the program for the 2008 crop year. To buy- in producer must pay the applicable fee at the Farm Service Agency Office **by September 16, 2008**. The buy-in fees do not provide insurance, but allows you to gain eligibility to participate in the 5 programs.

### **How do you become eligible for 2009?**

For 2009, ALL producers must timely purchase at a minimum CAT coverage through a private crop insurance agent for insurable crops or purchase Non-insured assistance through the Farm Service Agency by the applicable deadline, see NAP article .

**Fees for 2008 crops:** The buy in fees are as follows, \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county or \$900 total per producer for all counties, minus any previously paid fees for CAT coverage and/or FSA non-insured assistance (NAP). NOTE: These fees and limits apply separately to both CAT and NAP crops. Therefore you may be required to pay buy-in fees under both CAT and NAP to meet whole farm eligibility for SURE, ELAP and TAP.

Example: You wish to gain eligibility for LFP; you will need to pay the buy-in fee of \$100 dollars by September 16, 2008

**Fees for 2009 crops:** Must be paid by the applicable crop insurance deadline. For FSA non-insured assistance the fee per crop will be \$250, but not more than \$750 per producer per county or a total of \$1875 for all crops in all counties.

Example: You only wish to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Program; you will need to purchase coverage through FSA at the cost of \$250.

**Waiver of Fees:** The Fees mentioned above may be waived if the producer is a member of one of the following: a Socially disadvantaged group, Limited Resource, or a Beginning Farmer or Rancher.

Socially disadvantaged group – is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. If the applicant is entitled all members of the entity must be part of a socially disadvantaged group.

Limited Resource Producer – To qualify as a limited resource producer you must answer YES to BOTH the following questions:

1. In each of the last two years, was your direct or indirect **Gross Farm Sales** less than or equal to \$116,800 per year? *Gross Farm Sales is defined as: Gross Income entered on IRS Form 1040, Schedule F, in the Farm Income Section.*
2. In each of the last two years, was your **Total Household Income** less than the Douglas County "County/Area Value" of **\$19,583.00**? *Total Household Income is defined as Adjusted Gross Income for all members in your household or the amount you entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section.*

Beginning Farmer or Rancher – Is an individual or entity for which both of the following are true:

1. Has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.
2. Substantially participates in the operation, if the applicant is an entity, all members must be eligible beginning farmers or ranchers.

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## **LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRODUCERS THERE ARE IMPROTANT DETAILS RELATING TO THE NEW FARM BILL DISASTER PROGRAMS INSIDE**

**Attention: Agricultural group members and leaders.** Do you want FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer you? If so contact Andrew Schmidt at 541-673-6071 extension 104 or by email at [andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov](mailto:andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov)

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Douglas County Service Center should contact Andy Schmidt, at 541-673-6071 extension 104, or email [andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov](mailto:andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov).

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