

# NORTH DAKOTA FSA eNews

February 2012

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This winter weather in North Dakota has been great especially when it comes to doing livestock chores. Farm meetings are into full speed and 2012 crop planning is not very far behind. In this newsletter you will be reading about the sign up for the 2012 DCP/ACRE program, 2010 SURE (disaster) program and more. 2012 field maps are available to be picked up in the county office or can be emailed to you. Sorry we do not mail out maps. Also this newsletter is now in electronic format via e mail or can be found on our state FSA website ([www.fsa.usda.gov/nd](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nd)). It can also be picked up at your county FSA office. Have an enjoyable February.

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## CRP General Signup

FSA will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. Strong competition is expected to enroll acres into CRP, and interested producers are urged to maximize their environmental benefits and to make cost-effective offers.

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking.

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## 2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began on January 23rd ends June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in **DCP base** acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling in DCP/ACRE such as ownership changes, producer changes (Individuals and Entities), or changes in crop share arrangements must be reported to your local FSA office.

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

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## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Interested producers must contact their county office for the application to be processed.

For more information on the SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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### **2011 SURE Program**

Signup for benefits for farm revenue losses during the 2011 Crop Year will most likely occur in the fall/winter of 2012/2013. Signup for SURE for a given crop year is delayed until the final national average market prices for the crop year have been set.

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### **FSA Signature Policy**

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
  - Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
  - Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other on a CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information
  - Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.
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### **Power of Attorney**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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### **FAV / Wild Rice Exception**

Producers may not plant fruits, vegetables (FAVs) or wild rice on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE. However, if the farm has a history of planting FAVs or wild rice or if the producer has a history of planting the specific FAV or wild rice, the FAV or wild rice may be planted on base acres. In such cases, the direct, countercyclical and ACRE payments shall be reduced acre for acre for each base acre planted to FAVs or wild rice.

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### **Seedbed Preparation for Expiring CRP**

Participants on certain CRP contracts may obtain permission to destroy vegetative cover during the final year of the contract. The purpose of the cover destruction is to prepare a seedbed for the next year's crop. For additional information, please review the fact sheet here:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/nd\\_early\\_seedbed\\_prep.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nd_early_seedbed_prep.pdf)

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### **Restrictions on Removing CCC Loan Collateral**

Producers preparing for spring planting are reminded of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan restrictions. Grain under CCC loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is considered a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties. The loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility and restrictions on LDP's may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact their local FSA office for additional information.

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### **Form CCC-1099G for 2011 Tax Year**

CCC-1099G forms detailing program payments received during the 2011 tax year were mailed on January 18th, 2012. This form is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which

payments to report on income tax returns. However, FSA staff can review payments for accuracy. If you have not received form CCC-1099G for 2011, please contact your local office.

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### **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**

Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for qualifying producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities. The loan interest rate changes monthly and is based on the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term. Loan terms are 7, 10 and 12 years depending on the amount of the loan. Real estate liens are required for new loans and aggregate loan balances exceeding \$50,000. Loans are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins and bunker silos, new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass, and new cold storage facilities suitable for storing the fruits and vegetables produced by the borrower. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available. An FSFL loan must be approved before authorizing delivery of equipment or materials, site preparation, or construction.

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### **Need Help Planting a Crop?**

Call Farm Rescue, the nonprofit organization that plants and harvests crops for family farmers who have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. Up to 1,000 acres planted free of charge. Go to [farmrescue.org](http://farmrescue.org) or call 701-252-2017 for an application. Priority is given to applications received by April 15.

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### **January Loan and Interest Rates**

Operating Loans - 1.375%  
Farm Ownership Loans - 3.375%  
Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%  
Emergency Loans - 3.75%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 1.375%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.000%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.250%

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### **Important Dates to Remember**

2/20/2012 - Offices closed for Washington's Birthday (President's Day)  
3/15/2012 - NAP Deadline for 2012 Forage and other Spring Planted crops  
6/1/2012 - End of 2010 SURE Signup  
6/1/2012 - End of 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup  
7/15/2012 - Acreage Reporting Deadline  
7/15/2012 - 2011 ACRE Production Evidence  
8/1/2012 - 2012 Land and Ownership Changes

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