



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

August 2009

Now's the Time To Act To enSURE 2010 Crop Disaster Benefits are Available

It may be hard to believe when producers are so busy with their 2009 crops that very soon they must plan and take action for their 2010 crops. That's right to be eligible for 2010 disaster assistance through the *Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, TAP, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)* producers must purchase insurance coverage before the sales closing date for **ALL** crops which are at risk, and are of economic significance. If it is unknown before the sales closing date what crops will be significant or at risk, then it is recommended that insurance be obtained for all crops for which the possibility exists. The next 2010 sales closing date is September 1, 2009, for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng Root, Ornamental Nursery, and Turfgrass Sod. Wheat and Oats sales closing date quickly follows on September 30, 2009.

The SURE, TAP, ELAP Programs are permanent disaster programs that became law in the 2002 Farm Bill. What this means to producers is that if a natural disaster occurs, and all eligibility criteria is met, producers will not have to wonder, hope, and wait for an AD Hoc Disaster Program.

SURE, TAP, ELAP requires producers to purchase multi-peril crop insurance at a minimum of the Catastrophic (CAT) Level with Federal Crop Insurance or with FSA through the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Program. The insurance requirement is for all farms in all counties in all states. It is also important to know that **any and all crops can be insured**, if Federal Crop Insurance does not insure the crop then FSA insures the crop with the NAP program. The NAP program offers insurance coverage at a level equal to CAT with Federal Crop Insurance. Sales closing dates vary by crop. A list of sales closing dates for Arkansas is enclosed.

FSA does not sell Federal Crop Insurance, therefore, producers will need to find an agent of their choice to obtain insurance and verify their sales closing dates. Before deciding on the level of insurance to purchase with Federal Crop Insurance, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA to understand how SURE benefits are calculated. The purchase of buy-up coverage has the potential of yielding a larger SURE payment.

To be eligible for 2010 grazing losses under the *Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)*, producers are required to purchase NAP insurance for all grazing crops in all counties and all states.

More details concerning the disaster programs can be obtained from your local FSA Office.

New Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Announced

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that eligible ranchers and livestock producers could begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Livestock Indemnity Program in the 2008 Farm Bill on July 13. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for either payment, for 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

Specific provisions for the other supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Act - the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - will be implemented through separate rulemakings and announced at a later date.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Introducing the Biomass Crop Assistance Program for FSA

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, biobased products, or biofuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

- Producers will be eligible for up to a dollar per dollar match, up to \$45 per dry ton, for the value of the biomass delivered to a designated biomass conversion facility.
 - For example: if a producer is paid \$30 per dry ton for the biomass by the conversion facility the producer would be eligible for a \$30 per dry ton payment for the costs associated with collecting, harvesting, transporting and storing the product.

Producers will be eligible for up to two years of payments.

More information will be available soon at your local county office.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is finding more and more participants nationwide. Most participation is coming from the Midwest, but some farms are being enrolled from Southern States as well. To learn more about ACRE, visit the websites below. Two separate interactive computer model (ACRE Calculators) are available to show expected ACRE payments based upon estimated yield and price data entered. The FSA ACRE Calculator will show projections of the DCP and ACRE payments for a specific year. The Texas A&M ACRE Calculator will show projections of ACRE, DCP, and the reduced loan rate benefits through 2012. The last website listed is from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service with more helpful information. Producers, *remember*, August 14, 2009 is the final date for enrollment and returning of signatures for participation in the 2009-ACRE Program.

Websites:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=dccp&topic=landing>

<http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/models/acre/index.php>

<http://www.agriculture.org/agfoodpolicy/ACRE.htm>

August 14, 2009 DCP/ACRE Deadline Nears

Producers, *there are approximately two weeks left to signup and return contract signatures for the 2009 DCP and ACRE enrollment.* Producers are strongly encouraged to contact their local FSA immediately to schedule an appointment. Submission of the Farm Operating Plan (CCC-902), Adjusted Gross Income Certification (CCC-526), and Wetland Compliance Certification (AD-1026) can be submitted after August 14, 2009, however, payments will not be issued until the documents are submitted, and if applicable approved by the County Committee.

Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring - Seeded Crops Extended to August 14, 2009

The July 15, 2008, spring seeded crop certification deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009. The extension also applies to reporting acreages that were prevented from planted, or destroyed due to natural disaster. Producers are required to report ALL cropland on the farm whether planted or idle as a condition to receive Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), and Marketing Assistance Loans. Other programs even require non-cropland be reported.

2008 Final Counter-Cyclical (CC) Payment For Wheat, Barley, and Oats

The 2008 final counter-cyclical payment rate is zero for wheat, barley, and oats because their effective prices exceed their respective target prices. No advances were issued therefore no over payments exist. The following table illustrates the calculations.

Item	Wheat	Barley	Oats
	Dollars Per Bushel		
Target Price	3.92	2.24	1.440
National Average Loan Rate	2.75	1.85	1.330
National Average Farm price	6.78	3.82	3.150
Higher of Loan Rate or Farm Price	6.78	3.82	3.150
Direct Payment Rate	0.52	0.24	0.024
Effective Price	7.30	4.06	3.174
Final CC Payment Rate	0	0	0

Payments To Deceased Producers

Notify FSA immediately upon the death of producers who were participating in FSA programs. Failure to notify FSA and make modifications to program contracts timely may result in a loss of benefits for **ALL** persons on the contract or application. *Producers are also cautioned to never sign using a power-of -attorney for a deceased person. Once a person dies the power-of-attorney is no longer valid. Any document signed with a power-of-attorney for a deceased person is invalid, and usually all producers on the document are ineligible to earn payments for the year.* In recent years, FSA has discovered that tenants have signed as power-of-attorney for landowners who are now deceased. In each case, the tenant explained that they assumed there were no changes. Unfortunately, in all of these cases, payments had to be refunded, due to the lack of a legal signature resulting in FSA not having a completed contract or application. When signing an FSA document it is your responsibility to ensure the document you sign is correct. Don't let this happen to you. It is very costly!

Maintaining Idle DCP Acres

DCP and ACRE participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as "contract acres" must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Failure to control weeds on contract acres will cost you program benefits if the County Committee determines the producer failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

Controlled Substance Provisions

Any person convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants.

Conservation Division Announces New Practices

Three new practices for CRP announced under the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP):

CP39 FWP Constructed Wetland

The purpose of this practice is to develop a constructed wetland to treat run-off from row crop agricultural drainage systems. The constructed wetland system is designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and provide other water quality benefits while providing wildlife habitat.

CP40 FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration

The purpose of this practice is to restore habitat or the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture, defined as *any earthen facility from which \$1,000 or more of freshwater food fish were sold, or normally would have been sold during a calendar year*. The producer in consultation with NRCS or TSP, shall determine the level of restoration of the wetland ecosystem.

CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetlands

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland. Hydrology and vegetation **must** be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA.

Conservation Division announces Cost Share for Tree Thinning

Tree thinning as a management practice of CRP contracts is authorized for cost share, when costs are incurred, as determined appropriate by the State Forester.

Please contact your county office for further benefits, restrictions, and eligibility information for these new Conservation Reserve Program provisions.

PROGRAM DEADLINES	DATE
Final date to inform FSA of crop losses	Before crop disposition
2009 Spring Seeded Acreage Reporting Deadline	July 15, 2009 Extended to August 14, 2009
Final date to file a 2009 ACRE Election Final date to have all signatures on an ACRE Election Final date to file a 2009 DCP and/or ACRE 2009 (yearly) enrollment Final date to have returned signatures for producers who have a share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract Final date to file a successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred by August 14, 2009	June 1, 2009 Extended to August 14, 2009
Final 2010 application closing date to obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng Root, Ornamental Nursery, and Turf grass Sod crops	Sept. 1, 2009
Final date to file a notice of loss for the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses from January 1, 2008 through July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Final date to file an application for payment for the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses during the 2008 calendar year	Sept. 13, 2009
Final date to prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments Final date to file a 2009 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after August 14, 2009 Final date to have returned signatures for producers who have a share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract that had a 2009 successor-in-interest contract filed after August 14, 2009 Final 2010 sales closing date to obtain Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) coverage for Wheat and Oats Final 2010 application closing date to obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for Wheat and Oats, (intended for grain, forage, or grazing) if FCIC coverage is not available in the county Final 2010 application closing date to obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for Barley and Rye (intended for forage or grazing)	Sept. 30, 2009

**Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Sales Closing Dates
For Arkansas for the 2010 Crop Year ***

Crop	Sales Closing Date
Nursery (Field Grown & Container)	05/01/2009
Wheat	09/30/2009
Oats	09/30/2009
Apples	11/20/2009
Grapes	11/20/2009
Peaches	11/20/2009
Corn	02/28/2010
Upland Cotton	02/28/2010
Grain Sorghum	02/28/2010
Peanuts	02/28/2010
Rice	02/28/2010
Soybeans	02/28/2010
Fresh Market Tomatoes	03/15/2010

This information is based on the 2009 sales closing dates moved forward 1 year. Verify the dates with an FCIC agent of your choice.

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Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/ar

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Application Closing Dates
For Arkansas for the 2010 Crop Year**

Annual Crops

Crop	Intended Use	Application Closing Date
Aquaculture		09/01/09
Christmas Trees		09/01/09
Ginseng Root		09/01/09
Ornamental Nursery		09/01/09
Turf grass Sod		09/01/09
Oats	GR	09/30/09
Wheat	GR	09/30/09
Apples	FH	11/20/09
Asparagus	FH	11/20/09
Blueberries	FH	11/20/09
Caneberries	FH	11/20/09
Figs	FH	11/20/09
Grapes	FH	11/20/09
Peaches	FH	11/20/09
Pears	FH	11/20/09
Honey		12/01/09
Broccoli	FH	01/01/10
Cabbage (S&F)	FH	01/01/10
Carrots	FH	01/01/10
Greens (S&F)	FH	01/01/10
Onions	FH	01/01/10
Pecans		01/01/10
Potatoes (S&F)	FH	01/01/10
Beans (S&F)	FH	02/28/10
Cantaloupes	FH	02/28/10
Corn	GR	02/28/10
Corn, Sweet	FH	02/28/10
Cotton		02/28/10
Cucumbers (S&F)	FH	02/28/10
Eggplant	FH	02/28/10
Grain Sorghum	GR	02/28/10
Lettuce	FH	02/28/10
Okra	FH	02/28/10
Peanuts		02/28/10
Peas (S&F)	FH	02/28/10
Peppers	FH	02/28/10
Pumpkins	FH	02/28/10
Rice	GR	02/28/10
Soybeans	GR	02/28/10
Squash (S&F)	FH	02/28/10
Strawberries	FH	02/28/10
Sugarcane	FH	02/28/10
Sunflowers		02/28/10
Sweet Potatoes	FH	02/28/10
Watermelons	FH	02/28/10
Tomatoes (S&F)	FH	03/15/10

Grazing and Forage

Crop	Intended Use	Application Closing Date
Barley	GZ	09/30/09
Barley	FG	09/30/09
Oats	GZ	09/30/09
Oats	FG	09/30/09
Rye	GZ	09/30/09
Rye	FG	09/30/09
Wheat	GZ	09/30/09
Wheat	FG	09/30/09
Alfalfa	GZ	12/01/09
Alfalfa	FG	12/01/09
Bahia	GZ	12/01/09
Bahia	FG	12/01/09
Bermuda Coastal	GZ	12/01/09
Bermuda Coastal	FG	12/01/09
Bermuda Common	GZ	12/01/09
Bermuda Common	FG	12/01/09
Bermuda Hybrid	GZ	12/01/09
Bermuda Hybrid	FG	12/01/09
Bluestem Old World	GZ	12/01/09
Bluestem Old World	FG	12/01/09
Fescue Red	GZ	12/01/09
Fescue Red	FG	12/01/09
Fescue Tall	GZ	12/01/09
Fescue Tall	FG	12/01/09
Fescue Tall	SD	12/01/09
Lovegrass	GZ	12/01/09
Lovegrass	FG	12/01/09
Mixed Forage	GZ	12/01/09
Mixed Forage	FG	12/01/09
Native Interseeded	GZ	12/01/09
Native Interseeded	FG	12/01/09
Orchard Grass	GZ	12/01/09
Orchard Grass	FG	12/01/09
Rye, Annual	GZ	12/01/09
Rye, Annual	FG	12/01/09
Sm. Grain/Interseeded	GZ	12/01/09
Sm. Grain/Interseeded	FG	12/01/09
Sudangrass	GZ	12/01/09
Sudangrass	FG	12/01/09
Corn	FG	02/28/10
Millet	FG	02/28/10
Sorghum	FG	02/28/10

(S&F) = Spring and Fall Plantings

Updated 7/21/2009

