



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

September 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 Turf grass 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.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) (Pub. L. 110-246) enacted on June 18, 2008, and amended by Pub. L. 110-398 on October 13, 2008, authorized Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees (including nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees), bushes, and vines that were lost or damaged because of natural disaster.

Natural disaster includes plant disease, insect infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, earthquake, lightning, or other natural occurrence of such magnitude or severity so as to be considered disastrous, as determined by the Secretary.

TAP applies only to orchardists who commercially produce trees for production of an annual crop and nursery tree growers who suffer **tree deaths** in excess of 15 percent **after** adjustment for normal mortality.

Normal mortality is defined as the number of expected lost tree, bush, or vine types in the individual stand normally occurring during a calendar year for a producer, computed using a percentage established for the area by the FSA State Committee.

Eligible tree, bush, or vine losses **must** have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. TAP eligibility is based on a calendar year.

TAP applies only to orchardists who produce fruit and nut bearing trees for the commercial production of an annual crop for human consumption, and nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale, and sustain **tree deaths** in excess of 15 percent **after** adjustment for normal mortality.

Timber is **not** eligible for TAP.

Further information on program signup will be announced at a later date.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

On May 5, 2009, the President directed USDA to aggressively accelerate investing in and producing biofuels which included a directive that the Secretary take steps to the extent permitted by law to expedite and increase producing and investing in biofuel development efforts. The biofuel development efforts include issuing guidance and support for Collection, Harvest, Storage, and Transportation assistance for eligible materials for use in Biomass Collection Facilities.

The Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for BCAP's CHST payments was published in the Federal Register (FR) on June 11, 2009, and is available on FSA's BCAP web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap>.

The CHST Matching Payment Program will provide eligible material owners matching payments for the sale and delivery of eligible material to a CHST-qualified BCF. These payments will be available to eligible material owners at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by the CHST-qualified BCF to the eligible material owners, limited to a maximum of \$45 per dry ton and limited to a 2-year payment duration.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) - continued

Under the CHST Matching Payment Program, payments are available for eligible material owners with renewable biomass obtained from a variety of sources, including crop residues. However, not more than 20 percent of the total program payments to eligible material owners will be available for crop residues from those commodities that are also eligible to receive payments under Title I of the 2008 Act.

BCF's are facilities that convert eligible material into heat, power, biobased CHST products, advanced biofuels, or any combination of these. FSA will only make CHST matching payments to eligible material owners who sell and deliver eligible material to a

CHST-qualified BCF.

Note: See the BCAP CHST Eligible and Ineligible Materials List on FSA's BCAP web site for the specific types of biomass and biobased CHST products eligible for payment.
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap>

BCF is a facility that produces either of the following:

- heat, power, advanced bio-fuels, or bio-based CHST products at the facility itself
- fuel or other CHST biobased products from eligible material, for subsequent sale or transfer to other facilities.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Revised Provisions of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Announced

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers FSFL on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Revised Provisions of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Announced-continued

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain,
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain,
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas,
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

PROGRAM DEADLINES	DATE
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.

“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, and 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Dianna Shook, Acting State Executive Director
Miriam Morehead, Acting Admin. Officer
Tony Franco, Chief, Price Support/Conservation

Sharon Baker, Chief, Prod Adj/Compliance
James Culpepper, Chief, Farm Loans
Phone (501) 301-3000
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
Love grass	GZ	12/01/09
Love grass	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
Sudan grass	GZ	12/01/09
Sudan grass	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

