



**“SCOOP”**

**ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE**

July 2010

**ACREAGE REPORTS MAY BE MORE IMPORANT THAN YOU REALIZE**

July 15, 2010, is the deadline to report to your local FSA Office this year's spring seeded planted acreage. Acreage reports are required to be eligible to receive benefits on many FSA programs. Some programs require all cropland on the farm be reported. Failure to report your acreage may result in the farm and or producer being ineligible for FSA program benefits. FSA charges a late-file fee for acreage reports filed after the applicable deadline and an approval process is applicable. For farms participating in FSA programs such as but not limited to the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, producers shall ensure that the shares designated on the contract for payment are in compliance with the acreage reported. Often producers are required to refund program payments for failure to control enough acres to support the contract acres. These situations usually occur when a farm has more than one tenant. As a rule a tenant must have risk in at least the number of acres for which payments are being requested. It is the producer's responsibility not FSA's to ensure payment provisions are met. Producers needing assistance should review this information with their local FSA during crop signup and later at crop certification.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (SURE)**

**2008 Late File Acreage Reports Being Accepted Through July 15<sup>th</sup>** – For SURE purposes, the deadline for producers to file 2008 Late-Filed FSA-578's (Acreage Reports) for **all** crops and land uses *without a late-filed fee* is **July 15, 2010**. This also includes prevented and failed acreage, if applicable. Producers will have to provide evidence of the crop's existence or disposition. Normal late-filed provisions are applicable for all other years for producers who failed to timely report. Other special provisions may apply, please contact your local FSA Office for more information.

FSA is still accepting 2008 crop loss applications into the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE Program). A deadline has not been set. FSA Offices in Arkansas have issued over \$1 million dollars in SURE benefits to date.

**RISK PURCHASE REQUIREMENT  
DEADLINES APPROACH FOR 2011 DISASTER PROGRAMS**

It may be hard to believe when producers are so busy with their 2010 crops that very soon they must plan and take action for their 2011 crops. That's right, to be eligible for 2011 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,

## **RISK PURCHASE REQUIREMENT DEADLINES continued:**

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 2011 sales closing date is September 1, 2010, for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng Root, Ornamental Nursery, and Turf grass Sod. Wheat and Oats sales closing date quickly follows on September 30, 2010.

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 2011 grazing losses under the *Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)*, producers are required to purchase NAP insurance for all grazing crops for which they are requesting benefits.

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

### **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.

### **FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS**

Producers should report failed crop acres to their local FSA Office when the crop failed due to disaster related conditions. To be timely filed, acreage reports for failed acreage shall be filed before the crop is destroyed. County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

## MEASUREMENT SERVICE

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have services completed on the farm. Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

### PROGRAM DEADLINES

PROGRAM DEADLINES	DATE
<b>Final date</b> to inform FSA of crop losses	Before Crop Disposition
<b>Final Date</b> to Report 2010 Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 2010
<b>Last Day</b> to file 2008 Acreage reports for the 2008 SURE Program	July 15, 2010
<b>Last day</b> to request a 2010 farm reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm	August 1, 2010
<b>Final date</b> to prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments <b>Final date</b> to file a 2010 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2010 <b>Final date</b> to have returned signatures for producers who have a share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract that had a 2010 successor-in-interest contract filed after June 1, 2010	Sept. 30, 2010

### USDA Grants Assistance to U.S. Catfish, Asparagus, and Shrimp Producers, Under Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service announced that it has certified a petition for catfish, asparagus, and shrimp under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program. U.S. catfish and asparagus producers nationwide will have 90 days to apply for training and benefits. Shrimp producers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas will have 90 days to apply for training and benefits.

The TAA for Farmers Program provides technical training and cash benefits to eligible U.S. producers and fishermen of raw agricultural commodities whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities.

After reviewing petitions submitted in April 2010 by the Catfish Farmers of America, and the National Asparagus Council, and the Southern Shrimp Alliance, FAS determined that increased imports of catfish and asparagus during January-December 2009 contributed importantly to a greater than 15-percent decline in the value of production in 2009, compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years. For shrimp, the increased imports of shrimp were during January-December of 2008, and contributed importantly to a greater than 15-percent decline in

**USDA Grants Assistance to U.S. Catfish, Asparagus, and Shrimp Producers** continued:

the value of production in 2008, compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years. This conforms to the eligibility requirements stipulated in Subtitle C of Title I of the Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L.107-210).

Individual catfish, asparagus, and shrimp producers, nationwide, interested in applying for technical training and cash benefits must complete and submit a written application to their local Farm Service Agency Service Center within 90 calendar days from today. Applications (form FSA 229-1) are available on the FAS Web site at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taiforms.asp>. All TAA for Farmers *Federal Register* notices can be found on the FAS Web site at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/fr/notices.asp>.

**Commodities Certified for Benefits and Program Deadlines** -The commodities listed in the following table have been certified (approved) for benefits under the TAA for Farmers Program.

	<b>Catfish</b>	<b>Asparagus</b>	<b>Shrimp</b>
<b>Eligible States or National</b>	National	National	AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX
<b>Petition Number</b>	2010001	2010003	2010005
<b>Producer Application Period</b>	June 25, 2010, to September 23, 2010	June 25, 2010, to September 23, 2010	June 25, 2010, to September 23, 2010
<b>Petition Filing Date</b>	May 3, 2010	May 3, 2010	May 3, 2010
<b>Crop Year for Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income Eligibility Check</b>	2009	2009	2008
<b>Petition Certification Date</b>	June 25, 2010	June 25, 2010	June 25, 2010
<b>Deadline for Submitting Business Plans for Payment</b>	June 25, 2013	June 25, 2013	June 25, 2013
<b>Deadline for Excel File to Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM)</b>	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2010
<b>Petition Marketing Year</b>	January to December 2009	January to December 2009	January to December 2008

Program benefits include cash payments and free technical training designed to help producers develop and implement business adjustment plans. Producers that develop an approved initial business plan will receive up to \$4,000 as payment toward implementing the plan or developing a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers who subsequently develop approved long-term business adjustment plans are entitled to receive an additional cash payment of up to \$8,000 to be applied toward implementing the plan. A producer may not receive more than \$12,000 or benefit from any other TAA program during the 36-month period following certification of a

**Commodities Certified for Benefits and Program Deadlines continued:**

group petition. Travel and subsistence expenses related to attending training sessions may also be reimbursable.

General information about the TAA for Farmers Program can be found on the FAS Web site at [www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa) or by contacting the TAA for Farmers Program staff in the Office of Trade Programs at telephone (202) 720-0638 or (202) 690-0633, or by e-mail at [tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov).

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)  
Acreage Reporting Deadlines Announced**

<b>2010 NAP Acreage Reporting Deadline</b>	
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Date</b>
Beans (all varieties, spring planted)	July 15, 2010
Corn (for grain and sweet corn)	
Cotton	
Cantaloupes	
Cucumbers	
Eggplant	
Grain Sorghum	
Okra	
Onions	
Peanuts	
Peas (all varieties, spring planted)	
Peppers	
Pumpkins	
Rice	
Squash	
Watermelons	
Soybeans	
Sugarcane	
Sunflowers	
Sweet potatoes	

**Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Acreage and Losses Timely**

Acreage and shares of NAP covered crops must be timely reported to the local FSA Office. Measurement services are available if needed. If a natural disaster strikes your covered crop, you must timely notify your local FSA office by completing a Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days from the date of:

- the natural disaster occurrence
- the final planting, if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster
- the date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you
- the normal harvest date.

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