



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
Farm Service Agency

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USDA IMPLEMENTS NEW CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SURE Signup Began Jan. 4, 2010 at USDA Farm Service Agency Offices.

Bozeman, MT, Jan. 4, 2010– Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana announced that signup for the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began Jan. 4, 2010. Producers suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year are encouraged to visit their local FSA office for eligibility requirements.

"This program is an important component of the disaster portion of the 2008 Farm Bill and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disasters," said Nelson.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, for all economically significant crops (more than 5% of the total value of all the crops nationwide). For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. In addition, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

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Producers may be eligible for SURE if they have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or in the absence of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

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

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