

JULY 2008 UMATILLA COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER



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2008 Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Buy-In Deadline

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, enacted on June 18, 2008, provide a new disaster program under the title "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance."

Five new Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs are available:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Payments (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- And, Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), note: LIP does not require coverage/waiver for eligibility



There are two-ways you can qualify for disaster assistance payments. These are:

- (1) If the Secretary of Agriculture has declared the county, of which you farm in, a disaster county or contiguous disaster county. When this occurs, you may earn payments if your total farm revenue is less than the program guarantee.
- (2) You yourself may receive a disaster payment, if due to weather related event(s), your total loss of production on your farm is in excess of 50% of your total farm revenue you may be eligible for payments.

To be eligible for these programs (SURE, TAP, & ELAP), producers must purchase at minimum a Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT coverage) on **all insurable crops/commodities** and/or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP coverage) on **all non-insurable crops/commodities** on your farm. According to the 2008 Act, a farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreages in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

For LFP producers to become eligible for assistance, producers must obtain a plan of insurance or file the required paperwork and pay administrative fees for NAP coverage on grazing land for assistance.

For 2008 only, a buy-in waiver for both CAT and NAP coverage is available for producers and landowners. Although **this buy-in will not provide any insurable "coverage,"** It will give producers the opportunity to become eligible for disaster payments if you qualify.

Buy-in fee for CAT coverage and/or NAP coverage is \$100/crop, \$300 maximum per producer per county, or \$900 in total per producer in all counties. These fees and limits apply separately to both CAT and NAP covered crops. Therefore, producers may be required to pay buy-in fees under both CAT and NAP to meet whole farm eligibility requirements for the new disaster programs of SURE, ELAP and TAP.

THE DEADLINE TO BUY-IN TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR 2008 IS SEPTEMBER 16, 2008!

You can also find more information about this program on-line at: www.fsa.usda.gov under Disaster Assistance Programs. Please contact the Umatilla County FSA for more information or to sign-up at (541) 278-8049 Ext. 2.

Martin Nguyen Resigns as CED for the Umatilla FSA Office

Martin Nguyen has been the CED here in Umatilla County since December, 2007. He has recently resigned the CED position here and will be a CED "at large" working in other county offices here in this state. Martin has appreciated the opportunity to work here in this county and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the farmers and ranchers for supporting him and

the staff over the past several months.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Umatilla County FSA Office

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2009 Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program Deadlines

For the 2009 crop year only, the NAP application deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008 for these following crops: Alfalfa, Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Barley, Beets, Blueberries, Cabbage, Caneberries, Canola, Carrots, Chestnuts, Cherries, Clover, Cranberries, Flowers, Garlic, Grapes, Grass, Greens, Hazelnuts, Herbs, Honey, Hops, Meadowfoam, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Radish, Rye, Strawberries, Sugarbeet, Triticale, Vetch, Walnuts, and Wheat (non-insurable).

For 2009 the NAP Fee has changed to \$250 per crop, \$750 per producer per county, \$2,250 maximum per producer in all counties. FSA encourages producers to come in prior to the deadline to sign-up. **Please remember that the insurance policy coverage period will not begin until the latter of either 30 days after the NAP application has been filed, or the date the crop is planted (not to exceed the final planting date).**

FSA FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

New Farm Bill - Deadlines for Producers

2008 Crop and CRP Acreage Reporting	Sign-up Deadline: August 15, 2008
2008 Disaster Assistance "Buy-In" Fee For 2008 Crops, producers must submit a "buy-in" fee to assure disaster program eligibility.	Buy-In Deadline: September 16, 2008
2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)	Sign-up Deadline: September 30, 2008
2009 NAP Applications Extended deadline for crops with NAP deadlines prior to December 1.	Sign-up Deadline: December 1, 2008

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