



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

December 2010

RISK PURCHASE REQUIREMENT DEADLINES APPROACH FOR 2011 DISASTER PROGRAMS

You must plan now for 2011 Disaster Programs administered by FSA. 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, and are of economic significance. The sales closing date is quickly approaching for many 2011 crops. If it is unknown what crops will be significant or at risk before the sales closing date, then it is recommended that insurance be obtained for all crops for which the possibility exists. You should check with your crop insurance agent of choice to determine the sales closing date for crops insured through Federal Crop Insurance, and contact your local FSA Office for crops covered under the Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program.

2009 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE) PROGRAM

The signup period for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) Program has not been announced, but is expected in the very near future. Producers should continue to check with their local FSA office for the latest information.

CHANGES TO FARMING OPERATIONS

Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. You should also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which impact your eligibility for DCP or ACRE payments. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement, buying land, selling land, and change in producer. Any change to your farming operation *must be* reported to FSA immediately. Failure to timely report changes may result in ineligibility for program benefits.

PAYMENTS TO DECEASED PRODUCERS

FSA must be notified **immediately** upon the death of producers who are participating in FSA programs. Failure to notify FSA and make modifications to program contracts timely may result in a loss of benefits for the share of the deceased producer **and** the other producers on the program contracts. ***Producers are also cautioned to never sign using a power-of-attorney for a person who is deceased. Once a person dies, the power-of-attorney is no longer valid. Any document signed with a power-of-***

attorney for a deceased is invalid, and usually all producers on the document are ineligible to earn payments for the year. In recent years, FSA has found that this is most common for the deaths of landowners on a farm. Often the tenant assumes that there are no changes and signs using a power-of-attorney, but in fact, the landowner is now deceased. In all of these cases the payment to the landowner and the payment to *all* of the other producers on the farm were invalid and must be refunded. It is everyone's responsibility that signs an FSA document to ensure that the document they sign is correct. Don't let this happen to you. It is very costly!

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
(Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- When signing on one's behalf, the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J. W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership,
Unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Persons signing in a representative capacity must ensure that the applicant is still living. Once a person is deceased, signature authority ceases to exist. If an FSA document is signed in a representative capacity for a deceased person, then the document is invalid and FSA program benefits are not earned.

USDA Announces Support for Restoration of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land Damaged by Natural Disasters

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on November 22, 2010 that \$18 million will be made available to assist nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners restore lands damaged by natural disasters. The funds are provided through USDA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP).

"Restoration activities promote rural resiliency, forest health, and support sustainable economic development. The Obama Administration is committed to helping forest landowners restore property damaged by floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters across the nation," said Vilsack. "Through this

new program, USDA will continue to assist landowners in their efforts to improve the health of privately held forest lands.”

EFRP participants will use the money to implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures necessary to address damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on NIPF land and restore forest health and forest related resources on the land. The damage from the natural disaster must have occurred on or after January 1, 2010.

The program is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). To be eligible for EFRP, land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster and is suitable for growing trees); and,
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must create damage that, if untreated, would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and,
- Materially affect future use of the land.

All of the above conditions must be met for EFRP eligibility. FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site damage inspections, taking into account the type and extent of damage.

FSA will use new web-based software developed for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to implement the EFRP. This new web-based software will more efficiently process applications and improve payment tracking. County offices will establish signup periods beginning on or after Dec. 6, 2010.

For further information on how to apply and eligibility requirements for EFRP, NIPF landowners may visit the FSA county office where their farm records are maintained or <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> and www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation. You may also obtain additional information at <http://go.usa.gov/CLI>.

PROGRAM DEADLINES

PROGRAM DEADLINES	DATE
Final 2011 NAP Acreage Reporting Date for: Wheat , Oats, Rye, and Barley (for Hay, Grazing, or Grain)	December 15, 2010
Final 2011 NAP Acreage Reporting Date for Honey	January 2, 2011
Final 2011 NAP Acreage Reporting Date for: Apples Asparagus Blueberries Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries) Figs Grapes, all varieties, including Muscadines Peaches Pears	January 15, 2011

2011 NAP Application Closing Date (last date to purchase 2011 crop year coverage) for: Broccoli Cabbage (Spring and Fall Plantings) Carrots Greens (Spring and Fall Plantings) Onions Pecans (Native and Improved Varieties) Potatoes (Spring and Fall Plantings)	January 1, 2011
Final date to inform FSA of crop losses	Before Crop Disposition
Last date to file prevented planting credit	15 days after the final planting date
Final Date to report wheat and oats planted acreage	May 15, 2011
Final date to file a 2011 ACRE Election Final date to have all signatures on an ACRE Election Final date to file a 2011 DCP and/or ACRE (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 June 1, 2011	June 1, 2011
The date FSA uses to look at the structure of farming operations to calculate direct attributions	June 1, 2011
Final Date to Report 2011 Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 2011
Last date to request a 2011 reconstitution on a DCP or ACRE farm	August 1, 2011
Final date to prioritize crop to receive ACRE Payments Final date to file a 2011 successor-in-interest DCP or ACRE contract if the change occurred after June 1, 2011 Final date to have returned signatures for producers who have a share in a DCP and/or ACRE contract that had a 2011 successor-in-interest contract filed after June 1, 2011	Sept. 30, 2011

“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.”

Linda Newkirk, State Executive Director
Dianna Shook, Administrative 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