



Farm Service Agency



September 2008

**USDA Service Center**

Wright County FSA  
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Office Hours  
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**County Committee**

Gale Kinser, Chairperson  
Evelyn Livermore-Fisher, Vice Chairperson  
Gary Taylor, Member

**Program Technician**

Sue Price

**County Executive Director**

Clyde Connelly

**District Director**

James J. Kyle

**USDA Announces Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs**

Many of you have been receiving postcards thru the mail notifying you of deadlines brought on by the new Farm Bill. What this means is that under the new Farm Bill a new agricultural Disaster relief trust fund, and a supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program, were created. The trust fund provides five new disaster assistance programs that may be used to make payments to farmers and producers. The new disaster assistance programs are the:

- \* Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- \* Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- \* Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- \* Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- \* Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF) Program

The SURE program will be available to eligible producers on farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. Or any farm in which, during the calendar year, the total loss of production on the farm because of weather is greater than 50% of the normal production of the farm.

The LFP program will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock because of drought on land that is either native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing.

The LIP program will be available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold.

The TAP program is reauthorized to provide assistance to orchardists and eligible nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sale that lost trees because of a natural disaster as determined by the Secretary.

(Disaster information continued on the next page)

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(Disaster information continued from page 1)

The EAFHF program will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock, including horses, honey bees and farm-raised fish because of losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

Producers interested in the SURE, EALHF, LFP, or TAP programs *must have purchased or obtained a plan of insurance* covered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIC) for each crop on the farm or if the commodity is noninsurable, be covered under the noninsured crop disaster assistance (NAP) program through the FSA Office, and have paid the applicable administrative fee set by the State Committee approved deadline date.

However for 2008, producers who do not meet the above listed requirements may be eligible if the producer pays a fee comparable to the cost of NAP or FCIC coverage by no later than **September 16, 2008**. For additional information about these programs, please contact us.

### ***NAP Coverage Closing Date Extended***

Since the Farm Bill was announced so late on the above new programs, the National Farm Service Agency office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) activity for 2009.

**As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008 for the 2009 application year.**

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- \* 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- \* The date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Stature limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, rye, barley, apples, cherries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, honey, aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turfgrass sod and watercress in Missouri, *is December 1, 2008*. For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471 application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. However, if you add or delete crops, or change crop shares, you must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

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## ***County Committee Elections***

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election **is now closed**. Nominations were due in the county office on Friday, August 1. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters **by November 3**. Voted ballots must be returned to the county office **by December 1** or postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008.

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committee help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as: commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments, and employing County Executive Directors.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital of family status.

## ***Power of Attorney***

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney.

## ***Reasonable Accommodations***

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call us and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

## ***Successor In Interest***

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to the IRS and maintaining current accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

## ***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
- \* FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms provided that they are approved for FAXED signatures.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## ***Bank Account Changes?***

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to allow us to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

## ***Farm Reconstitutions***

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group as tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm **reconstitution** is necessary. Neither the realtor nor the court house will notify us of these changes. It is up to you to let us know when you buy and sell property in order to allow us to keep farm records correct.

## ***2008 Compliance Process***

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2008 crops. However, instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed as the current sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2008 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

## ***Foreign Landowner Notification***

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.