

**FSA Agricultural Disaster Assistance Transition (2008 Transition Assistance)
Recovery Plan
FY 2010 Addendum**

This document updates the original FSA Agricultural Disaster Assistance Transition Plan published in May 2009, most notably with respect to the milestone schedule, performance measures, and monitoring/evaluation.

Activities

The Agricultural Disaster Assistance allows producers to become eligible for 3 distinct disaster assistance programs who did not previously obtain statutorily required insurance coverage for crop year 2008. The Recovery Act provided the authority for producers who suffered natural disaster losses, to become eligible for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), Tree Assistance Program (TAP) benefits, and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). The Congressional Budget Office originally estimated the cost of the authority provided in the Recovery Act to be \$744 million. However based on the most recent signup data, the Farm Service Agency estimates the cost of the additional Recovery Act authority to be \$380 million.

Milestones

Implementation Phases:

1. Development of Program Policy and Procedure – This phase consists of developing program policy and procedure, including compliance with the Recovery Act accountability and transparency requirements.

Completed milestones include:

- Develop a matrix of outstanding program issues,
- Announce the extended deadline for accepting “buy in” waivers to become eligible,
- Provide instruction to State and County offices for accepting the additional “buy in” fees,
- Ensure compliance with Recovery Act requirements.
- Resolve outstanding program issues,
- Publish regulations of program,
- Develop handbook procedure regarding additional eligibility issues and policy for revised guarantee calculations.

The first phase milestones were all completed by December 24, 2009.

2. Software Development – This phase consists of the following planned milestones:

Completed milestones:

- Develop automated buy in process for subsequent buy in provision,
- Develop requirement for RMA data download.

Milestones in Progress:

- Develop crop tables for program implementation,
- Develop yield software for calculating adjusted approved yield.

The completed second phase milestones were completed by January 2010.

3. Process Payment Applications – This phase will consist of the following planned milestones:

Completed Milestones:

- Receive data downloads from RMA for the calculation of guarantees for insurable crops and internal data for NAP crops,
- Announce program sign-up date for accepting applications,
- Begin accepting payment applications in or around January 2010.

Ongoing Milestone:

Run payment processes based on completed and approve applications.

The completed third phase milestones were completed in January 2010.

Measures

The success of the extended buy-in period and increases to the amount of assistance available for 2008 SURE will be evaluated using the following quantifiable outputs:

- Number of producers receiving assistance
- Number of dollars paid in additional assistance

Time Between Measurements:

- Number of producers receiving assistance
 - Performance will be measured by the National Office monthly, quarterly, and annually, and is available for each State by county.
- Number of dollars paid in additional assistance
 - Performance will be measured by the National Office monthly, quarterly, and annually, and is available for each State by county.

Measurement Methodology:

- Number of producers receiving assistance
 - Number of producers receiving an increase to the amount of assistance paid under SURE as a result of ARRA is captured by a special program accounting code.

- Number of dollars paid in additional assistance
 - The number of dollars paid from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund to the 2008 SURE participants is be captured by a special program accounting code.

Reporting Methodology: Performance reporting will be done monthly, quarterly and annually, or as prescribed by OMB.

Performance Update:

Measure	Target/Actual			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of producers receiving assistance	0/0	TBD/13,973	TBD/TBD	TBD/TBD
Amount of assistance provided to agricultural producers	0/0	TBD/\$114,868,793	TBD/TBD	TBD/TBD

Note: Actual data for 2010 is cumulative as of April 1, 2010.

Monitoring/Evaluation

The main outcomes of the ARRA are to promote economic recovery, especially to those areas most impacted by the recession.

FSA has established a SURE implementation project which brings together a number of best practices to deliver results. Martin Lowenfish has been appointed as the SURE Project Director with overall responsibility for expediting all aspects of implementing the program. Mr. Lowenfish is leading a formally governed project to coordinate the many interrelated activities needed to accomplish this task. FSA has assembled several functional areas that are essential for delivering SURE into a chartered project team. The team ensures that there is a means for all involved to bring their experience to bear on delivering the program. FSA is implementing formal project management, including the use of tools such as the Microsoft Project, so that the many complicated tasks involved in implementing SURE can be completed with increased reliability and speed. This involves the coordination of activities from developing regulations to testing software. Program requirements are being developed in accordance with the System Development Life Cycle standard to ensure quality and timely software delivery.

FSA began conducting a National review of SURE payment applications on April 21, 2010, in order to detect program compliance weaknesses. The total statistical sample size for the SURE reviews is 300 producers. Twenty-eight States and 202 counties are included in the SURE review. Completion Date: 5/21/2010