



## “SCOOP”

### ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE NOVEMBER 2012

#### SIGN-UP HAS BEGUN 2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE) PROGRAM

Producers who suffered crop losses for 2011 may begin applying for disaster assistance at FSA County Offices through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Signup began October 22, 2012, and will end on June 7, 2013. The SURE program will help provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to a natural disaster. The SURE Program has many components. *One of the most important aspects of the program is all land the producer farms nationwide is used to determine if a payment can be earned. This land is identified as a producer's "farm."* To qualify for a payment:

1. A producer must have insured all crops, that he/she farms nationwide, that are of economic significance with a plan of insurance with Federal Crop Insurance or with FSA's Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This requirement is known as the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR). Producers who are 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.
2. *The eligible loss must have been incurred by September 30, 2011.* Because crop cycles and crop years do not correspond with the September 30, 2011 cutoff, and the SURE Program does not cover independent crop losses, *SURE calculates revenue losses from all crops on all farms in all counties*, the 2011 Program will cover revenue losses if:
  - the producer certifies that at least one crop of economic significance had a 10% loss **on or before September 30, 2011** because of an eligible natural disaster condition for that crop year
  - at least a portion of the land farmed, is in an approved secretarial disaster declaration county or producer can certify to an overall loss greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production. (For 2011, all counties in Arkansas are covered under a Secretarial Disaster Declaration.)
  - the insurance coverage period for the crop whether RMA or NAP began on or before September 30, 2011
  - the final planting date for the crop occurred on or before September 30, 2011.

Once the criteria above are met, then the program can cover quality and economic losses. The SURE program provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and the total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance, and 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. The application process is unique for the SURE Program given that an application must account for all land in all counties farmed by the producer. Producers who have farming interests in more than one county will ultimately sign their application in the county FSA has noted as their payment limitation control county. However,

**2011 SURE SIGNUP continued:**

before signing the application, all land from all counties must be processed by each respective administrative county, or by the control county.

A producer should call their FSA County Office to start the process. Many items that are needed for the program are already a matter of record with FSA, however, they will need to be verified with the County Office(s). Some of the information that FSA will NOT have includes, but is not limited to:

- production evidence if not already a record with RMA or FSA
- Value of settlements obtained from Federal Crop Insurance or FSA
- AD-1026, CCC-902, CCC-931 if there was no other program participation for 2011.

Producers should bring this information with them to the County Office to speed up the application process. Due to the many components of the SURE Program, it will take a considerable amount of time to process the application.

**2013 WHEAT AND OATS  
TO BE CERTIFIED BY DECEMBER 15, 2012**

*All 2013 Wheat and Oats planted, and prevented planted acreages must be reported to FSA by December 15, 2012, whether insured with RMA or not.* This is a new deadline beginning in 2013. The deadline change is designed to help improve services, and eliminate confusion among producers, by providing one reporting deadline for FSA and RMA. Other deadlines have been changed as well, and are notated below:

<b>Crop Year (Harvested Year)</b>	<b>Crop</b>	<b>Reporting Date</b>
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Wheat and Oats	December 15, 2012
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Apples, Grapes, Peaches	January 15, 2013
<i>(new) 2013</i>	Corn, Upland Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Rice, Soybeans and other Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 2013

**2013 WHEAT AND OATS PREVENTED PLANTED PROVISIONS**

It is vital for Producers to report prevented planted acreage to their local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to disaster-related conditions. To be considered timely filed, prevented planted acres should be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date established by Federal Crop Insurance. Final planting date for wheat and oats is **November 30, 2012**, so the final date to report prevented planted wheat and oats is **December 15, 2012**. County Committee review and action are required to receive credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

**2013 FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS**

It is necessary for Producers to report failed crop acres to their local FSA Office when the crop failed due to disaster related conditions. **To be timely filed the failed acreage shall be reported to FSA before the crop is destroyed.** County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. The County Committee may require the office to conduct a field visit for crop residue and verification.

## **2011 END-OF-YEAR REVIEWS**

FSA is expected to begin soon, completing payment eligibility, and payment limitation compliance reviews for program year 2011. Producers selected for review are required to supply actual receipts, and documents to support the claimed capital, equipment, land, labor, and management contributions, which were designated on the CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan. If you are selected, ensure you provide FSA with a copy of the requested materials. Producers that failed to follow their submitted plan will be required to refund payments back to year 2011.

## **2012 FINAL DCP DIRECT PAYMENTS**

FSA county offices began releasing 2012 Final Direct payments around mid October. Producers who have not received their total payment should check with their respective county office(s) to determine the reason the payments have not been issued. FSA may need more information from you.

## **FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together, to improve program compliance, and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

- FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season
- FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA
- Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA, or the Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims.

## **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROVISIONS**

Any person convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants.

## **2013 NAP PROGRAM APPLICATION CLOSING DATES**

Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (blackberries and raspberries), Figs, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums	November 20, 2012
Honey	December 1, 2012
Broccoli, Cabbage (Spring & Fall), Carrots, Greens (Spring & Fall), Onions, Pecans (Native & Improved), Potatoes (Spring & Fall)	January 1, 2013

## **2012 NAP ACREAGE REPORTING DATES**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Acreage Reporting Date</b>
Greens – Collards, Kale, Hybrid Mustard, Turnip, and Leaf Spinach	November 1, 2012

**2013 NAP ACREAGE REPORTING DATES**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Acreage Reporting Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oats for grain, forage, or grazing</li> <li>- Wheat for grain, forage, or grazing</li> <li>- Winter Barley for grazing</li> <li>- Rye for grazing</li> <li>- Small grains interseeded for Grazing or forage – cool season</li> <li>- Strawberries</li> </ul>	December 15, 2012
Honey	January 2, 2013
Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Blackberries, Raspberries, Figs, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears	January 15, 2013

**PROGRAM DEADLINES**

FSA and RMA final planting date for 2013 wheat and oats	November 30, 2012
Final date to report <b>2013 wheat and oats planted and prevented planted acreage</b>	December 15, 2012
Final date to inform FSA of <b>2013</b> crop losses	Before Crop Disposition
Final date to report <b>2013</b> Apples, Grapes, Peaches crops	January 15, 2013
Final date to report <b>2013</b> planted Corn, Upland Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Rice, Soybeans and other Spring Seeded Crops	July 15, 2013
Final Date for Sign-up for 2011 Losses for the SURE Program	June 7, 2013

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