



NEWSLETTER



STATE OF THE FARM UPDATE

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From the FSA Farm Fields

As we embark upon the spring months here in the Hoosier state, I wish Indiana farmers a safe planting season. We all have experienced an unusually warm weather pattern during this past winter. The extraordinary weather continued with a late-winter weather system that produced severe tornados that ravaged

the southern part of Indiana in early March 2011. As Indiana agriculturalists, our hearts go out to those that lost human or animal life, but also to the rebuilding of towns, communities and farming operations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) stands ready to assist producers in the Presidentially-Declared disaster southern Indiana counties. We have heard the countless stories of volunteerism and heroism that took place from the minutes after the storms hit to now – almost a month later.

FSA has several programs to assist farmers. This newsletter addresses several of those programs. If you had damage to your farming operation from these storms or have questions about how FSA can assist you or someone you know, please visit your local FSA Service Center. For more information about FSA's programs for disaster assistance, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Sincerely Yours In Agriculture,

Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director
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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-Up

A four-week CRP general signup began on March 12, 2012 and ends on April 6, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-

term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

For more information on CRP, visit your local FSA Service Center or go online at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. This initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the CRP Program.

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local FSA County Office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp for additional information regarding the CRP Initiative.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for implementing emergency water conservation measures. ECP participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to assist with debris removal from farmland and restore livestock fences and conservation structures. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress and must be requested by FSA. ECP Implementation has been approved for Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott and Washington Counties. Contact your local FSA office for more information or to sign-up for this program.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

EFRP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to landowners of private forestland. The purpose of this program is to make payments available to owners of nonindustrial private forestland who are approved for program participation and carry out emergency measures to restore land that is damaged by a natural disaster. These disasters include ice storms, excessive winds, and other resource-impacting events. Contact your local FSA office for more information or to sign-up for this program.

Emergency Loans

FSA provides emergency loans in counties designated as disaster areas to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding or other natural disasters. Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation and; refinance certain debts.

Eligible applicants must be established family farm operators, have sufficient farming experience and must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property. Other eligibility criteria also apply. Contact your local FSA Office to see if you qualify.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through June 1, 2012. The SURE Program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production and/or quality losses.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

For SURE, a farm includes all acreage and crops grown by a producer nationwide, with the exception of grazed crops. For more information on SURE and to view Secretarial disaster designations, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.



Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) Sign-Up

2012 DCP/ACRE enrollment runs from January 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers sharing in DCP/ACRE base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of the DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1 in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (individuals and entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Visit FSA's website www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp for more information on DCP and ACRE.

GovDelivery

FSA is moving towards a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

2012 IMPORTANT DATES

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March 12	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 43 begins
March 31	Final date to obtain loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) on 2011 harvested small grains
April 6	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 43 ends
May 1	Application Deadline for NAP coverage of nursery crops for the 2013 crop year
May 31	Crop certification date for Fall and Spring seeded small grains in Southern Indiana
May 31	Final date to obtain loans or LDPs on 2011 harvested feed grains and soybeans
June 1	Deadline for 2012 DCP/ACRE Enrollment/ACRE Election
June 1	Date used to determine ownership interest in a legal entity for program year 2012
June 1	Deadline to sign up for 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)
June 15	Nomination Period begins for County Committee Election
June 20	Final Date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn
July 5	Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for soybeans