



**March 2011**

**Michigan State Farm Service Agency**

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**Hours**  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

For additional information about programs included in this newsletter or other programs being administered through the Farm Service Agency please visit your local FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## CRP General Signup 41

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general signup.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective October 1, 2011.

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments and cost-share assistance.

In addition to the general signup, CRP's continuous signup program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

Producers on farms with covered commodity base acres may elect to participate in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments under DCP.

The decision to enroll into the ACRE program is irrevocable. All owners and producers on the farm must agree to enroll. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The deadline to elect and enroll in the ACRE Program is June 1, 2011.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup for the SURE Program for 2009 crop losses began January 10, 2011 and continues through July 29, 2011. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster.

To be eligible for SURE a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on all crops in all counties that are economically significant crops, except for grazed acreage.
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers considered Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher may be eligible for SURE without a plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

## Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payment at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the calculated direct payment.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

## Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (MAL) for certain commodities. MAL's provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically low. The loans carry a nine month maturity and can be repaid with cash from disbursement to loan maturity.

The final date to request a loan on 2010 small grains and honey is March 31, 2011 and May 31, 2011 for feed grain and oilseeds.

## Emergency Loans

Emergency loan applications are being accepted from producers that suffered production losses in those counties that were designated as natural disaster areas for 2010, or in contiguous counties. For those customers located in those impacted counties, the deadline to submit an EM loan application is August 8, 2011.

Dates to Remember	
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	CRP General Signup 41 begins
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	NAP and FCIC Insurance sales closing date for most 2011 spring seeded annual crops
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Final date to request 2010 small grain and honey loans
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to sign up for Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment Program (ALAP)
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Final date to submit offers for CRP General signup 41
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Final date to request feed grain and oilseed loans
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline to sign up for DCP/ACRE
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Final date to report acreage for fall seeded small grains
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Final Date to report all other crop acreage, CRP & GRP
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Final date to report production for NAP & ACRE
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to sign up for 2009 SURE
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to apply for Emergency Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Michigan CREP & CRP SAFE

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