

For: State and County Offices

**Closing the Application Process for 2008 Supplemental
Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program Payments**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On January 4, 2010, FSA offices were notified that SURE payment software was available to assist in processing applications for 2008 SURE program payments. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) was signed into law on February 17, 2009, which provided additional provisions for 2008 SURE. One of the results of the Recovery Act was to increase the amount of 2008 SURE program payments with stimulus funds.

Because of conflicting priorities, limited funding, and issues beyond FSA’s control, the current application process will be the only process available for 2008 SURE program payments. FSA will **not** develop another application process for 2008 SURE program payments.

USDA’s authorization to use Recovery Act stimulus funds for 2008 SURE program payments ends on **September 30, 2010**. Therefore, FSA **must** close the application period for 2008 SURE program payments on **September 30, 2010**.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- information about the close of the 2008 application period for 2008 SURE program payments and the cessation of stimulus funding for 2008 SURE payments under the Recovery Act
- guidance to State and County Offices about using a register for applications for 2008 SURE program payments
- instructions for publicizing the close of the 2008 SURE application period.

Disposal Date	Distribution
June 1, 2011	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 2008 SURE Program Payments Application Period

A Impact of Recovery Act on 2008 SURE Program Payment Applications

The Recovery Act increased 2008 SURE program benefits and expanded eligibility for participants. The stimulus authorized by the Recovery Act changed the computation of the 2008 SURE payment based on increased guarantee calculation for both insurable crops and crops eligible for NAP coverage.

The software currently available in County Offices is the final software available for loading 2008 SURE program payment applications.

Recovery Act funding authority for 2008 SURE program payments ends on **September 30, 2010**. Accordingly, the 2008 SURE payment program application period **must end on COB September 30, 2010**.

B Application Period Deadline

The **deadline** for 2008 SURE program payment applications is **COB September 30, 2010**. **There are no provisions for late-file applications**. Applications **not** filed by **September 30, 2010**, regardless of the reasons why, will **not** receive a payment because of lack of funding.

Notes: Applications **do not** have to be paid **by September 30, 2010**. However, the application **must** be filed by **September 30, 2010**, to be eligible for payment consideration.

County Offices will **not** discourage any interested producer from filing an application, even if it appears that the participant may fail or fails to meet some eligibility requirement or the participant fails or may fail to earn a 2008 SURE program payment.

Producers who do not apply for 2008 SURE program payments under the application process currently available through **September 30, 2010**, for whatever reason, will be considered to have **not** filed an application for 2008 SURE program payments. No other application period or signup will be announced or held for 2008 SURE program payments.

See 1-CM for guidance on signatures of persons signing in a representative capacity.

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3 Application Register

A Using Registers

County Offices may request to use a register according to 1-CM, paragraph 2, because of heavy workload or computer processing issues that make completing 2008 SURE program payment applications impossible or impracticable by **September 30, 2010**.

Notes: SURE program payments are computed for each farm participant; not for each farm. Each participant who may be eligible to apply for 2008 SURE program payments **must personally** contact the County Office to be placed on the register.

County Offices will encourage all who are interested in applying to file FSA-682 by the deadline. County Offices will **not** discourage any interested producer from filing FSA-682 by the deadline.

See 1-CM for guidance on signatures of persons signing (or persons contacting FSA) in a representative capacity.

B Deadline for Return of Documents

Completed FSA-682's must be returned to the County Office as soon as possible, but no later than 5 business days after the producer's scheduled appointment. If FSA-682 is returned or received on the 6th workday or later, then that FSA-682 is deemed to have **not** been filed for requesting 2008 SURE program payments and will **not** be acted on.

C Deadline for Processing Participants on the Register

County Offices that use a register **must** complete action on **all** participants on the register by COB **November 19, 2010**, with **all** FSA-682's returned to the County Office. If an appointment to apply is **not** met, then that producer is deemed to **not** have filed an application for 2008 SURE program payments.

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4 Action

A County Office Action

County Offices will:

- publicize that the end of the 2008 SURE payment program application period is **September 30, 2010**
- encourage all who are interested in applying for 2008 SURE program payments to sign FSA-682 by **COB September 30, 2010**
- **not** discourage any interested producer from filing an application by **September 30, 2010**, even if it appears that the participant fails to meet some eligibility requirement or the participant may fail to earn a 2008 SURE program payment.

Note: Producers choosing **not** to file FSA-682 by **September 30, 2010**, for whatever reason, will **not** be eligible for 2008 SURE program payments.

After approval to use a register, County Offices will:

- receive requests to apply for 2008 SURE program payments from the producer, documenting the method by which the request was received
- have the participant provide as much preliminary information as possible about each application involved
- schedule an appointment when the participant makes contact with the County Office to be placed on the register

Note: County Office must schedule appointments for participants on the register as soon as possible. The length of time to schedule an appointment must be timely and monitored closely by DD and the State Office to ensure that all participants in a county are processed by **October 29, 2010**.

- date each FSA-682 with the date it is actually filed and cross-reference FSA-682 to the register
- emphasize to participants on the register that signature requirements on FSA-682 **must** be met within 5 workdays after the scheduled appointment, **not** to exceed **November 19, 2010**.

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4 Action (Continued)

B State Office Action

State Offices will:

- approve or disapprove the request to use a register for 2008 SURE program payment applications
- monitor County Offices to ensure that participants on the register are scheduled for an appointment as soon as possible after **September 30, 2010**
- ensure that:
 - participants on registers are processed as soon as possible after **September 30, 2010**
 - the number of days appointments are scheduled correlate to the number of participants on the register.