



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
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2011 Sign-up for SURE Program Begins Today

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Oct. 22, 2012 -- Steve Maurer, State Executive Director for Ohio's Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced today the sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program begins. "Any eligible producer who suffered losses during the 2011 crop year is encouraged to visit their local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program and how to apply," said Maurer.

The SURE program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and producers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011. All eligible farmers and producers must sign-up for 2011 SURE benefits **before the June 7, 2013** deadline.

To qualify for a SURE payment, the producer's operation must be located in a county that was declared a disaster for 2011 and have at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance. Producers with agricultural operations located outside a disaster county are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss greater or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm.

All of Ohio's counties received a primary Secretarial Disaster Designation or contiguous Secretarial Disaster Designation during 2011. This means that all counties in Ohio can apply for SURE benefits as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on non-insurable crops, if available, from FSA. Eligible farmers and producers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or producer do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.