

This is an important reminder to farmers, ranchers and landowners that 2010 risk management coverage for all crops in all counties must be timely purchased in order to maintain eligibility for disaster program benefits.

Risk management coverage may either be purchased through the federal crop insurance program, or through FSA's non-insured assistance program (NAP), as applicable.

Coverage purchased through the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage –Vegetative Index (PRF-VI) crop insurance pilot program also meets the risk management coverage requirements.

March 15, 2010 is the spring sales closing date for purchasing both NAP and certain crop insurance coverage in Nebraska.

Producers who fail to timely purchase the required risk management coverage for all required crops will be ineligible for 2010 program benefits available through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), and the Livestock Forage Program (LFP).

Please note that in 2009, producers were provided an opportunity to "buy-in" and maintain eligibility for the permanent disaster programs after the sales closing date.

No "buy-in" opportunity will exist in 2010. Producers must purchase the required coverage by March 15, 2010 to maintain their eligibility for disaster program benefits.

In cases where PRF-VI was purchased, all acres of a crop must have been covered in order to maximize benefits under FSA's permanent disaster programs.

Certain producers, who qualify as socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning

farmers or ranchers, may be exempt from the risk management purchase requirements.

Specific questions regarding the risk management purchase requirements for each disaster program (SURE, ELAP or LFP) should be referred to the local Farm Service Agency office.

*SURE & ELAP*—producers must obtain either crop insurance coverage at the catastrophic (CAT) level or higher, or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, for all crops (including farm-raised fish and honey bee colonies) on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Forage crops intended for grazing are excluded from this requirement.

*LFP*—Only grazing acres incurring a loss are required to have crop insurance or NAP coverage, as applicable.

Certain crops considered to be “de minimis” may also be excluded from this requirement for SURE purposes only. The “de minimis” crop exception does NOT apply to ELAP or LFP.

Please contact our office for additional information on the Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR) for 2010 FSA disaster programs.

Producers may post listings of the availability or need for hay on the following websites: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/hayNet?area=online&subject=landing@topic=hans&etflag=welc> or <http://www.agr.ne.gov/hayhot/hayhotline.htm>

Please continue to call the office at 308-352-4747, press 2 for appointments to sign-up for the 2008 SURE program, DCP/ACRE program and to report your wheat plantings.