

Final Day To Apply For Crop Insurance For Wheat Is Sept. 30

PINE BLUFF, ARK.

Sept. 30 is the deadline for wheat and oat producers who are not currently insured to sign up for crop insurance. It is also the deadline for making any changes to existing crop insurance policies or canceling existing policies, says Dr. Henry English, director of the Small Farm Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Dr. English reminds producers that any changes to existing policies or cancellations should be done in writing.

Crop insurance is linked to the disaster program or the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) program. To be eligible for SURE, producers must have crop insurance on all row crops, and they must have purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on all crops for which it is available.

"If producers grow both row crops and vegetables or row crops and hay, they must have their row crops insured as well as have NAP coverage on their vegetables or hay," says Dr. English. One exception is that SURE coverage is not required on forage crops intended for grazing.

"There are other exceptions," says Dr. English. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers or ranchers are exempt; they do not have to purchase crop insurance or NAP to qualify for SURE. But, qualifying as a limited-resource farmer differs in each county. For example, in Jefferson County, Ark., limited-resource farmers must have gross farm

sales less than \$142,000 and a total household income of \$22,050 or less. In Pulaski County, the total family income can be \$22,893.13. To determine if you qualify as a limited-resource farmer, check the following website <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Other important crop insurance dates for Arkansas wheat producers are Nov. 30, which is the final planting date, and Dec. 15, the acreage reporting date. The final planting date is the latest date that a crop can be planted in the area and qualify for the full insurance guarantee.

The acreage reporting date is the date by which producers must submit their acreage to their insurance provider to certify the number of acres planted, the farming practices (irrigated or non-irrigated) used and other information required to insure that crop in the area.

Check with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to determine which crops need to be insured to be eligible for SURE and for answers to questions about SURE or NAP, says Dr. English. Use the Risk Management Agency's website www.rma.usda.gov to locate a crop insurance agent in your area.

Or, producers can contact the UAPB Small Farm Office at (870) 575-7246 or (870) 575-7237 or an Extension associate for additional information on crop insurance or help in determining limited-resource status. △



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