

Sign-Up For 2009 Disaster Relief Has Begun: Sign Up NOW

PINE BLUFF, ARK.

Producers who suffered crop losses in 2009 should apply for disaster assistance at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices now, advises Dr. Henry English, director of the Small Farm Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB).

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program began Jan. 10 and runs through July 29, 2011. This sign-up is for disaster relief for crop losses during 2009 which was an extremely wet year in Arkansas with rainfall in excess of 25 inches above normal.

SURE is one of five disaster programs that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffer losses due to natural disasters. Dr. English reminds producers that to qualify they must have federal crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops, but producers considered so-

cially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy, plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

Also, to qualify a producer must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss which resulted from a natural disaster on at least one crop of economic significance. And, the farm must be located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or be contiguous to one. For 2009, all counties except Madison and Polk qualify.

SURE program assistance is an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and the total farm revenue which is based on the amount of crop insurance and NAP coverage, says Dr. English, who is urging farmers to visit their local FSA office to sign up. △



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