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Key Points

- Farmers have until September 30, 2010 to file SURE claims for the **2008** crop year.
- To be eligible for SURE coverage in **2011**, farmers have until September 30, 2010 to buy crop insurance coverage for their forage and fall-seeded small grains.
- Talk to your county FSA office if you have questions about SURE.

A Quick Reminder about SURE for the 2008

Remember the Floods of 2008? It was national news when Cedar Rapid, IA suffered extensive flooding, with many Wisconsin farmers also suffering crop losses. 2008 was also the year the new Farm Bill took effect and among its many changes was the SURE program, the new permanent disaster program for farmers. 2008 was the first year farmers could sign up for SURE and, with the late passage of the Farm Bill, farmers had all summer to sign up. Many Wisconsin farmers signed up and so far, about \$60 million in SURE payments have been made in Wisconsin. Farmers who signed up for SURE in 2008 may still be eligible for payments. If you signed up for SURE in 2008, had a 10% production loss for at least one of your crops, and have not checked about your eligibility, contact your county FSA office and ask about your SURE payment eligibility—you may have a pleasant surprise.

Now is the Time to Decide about SURE for 2011

Farmers who want to be eligible for SURE for the 2011 cropping season may need to insure some of their crops this fall. SURE eligibility requires that any crop expected to generate at least 5% to the farm's revenue must be insured. September 30, 2010 is the deadline for purchasing crop insurance for forage crops and for fall-seeded small grains such as wheat or rye. Perennial crops such as apples, grapes, maple sap, cherries, hops and cranberries have a November 20, 2010 deadline for crop insurance. Spring planted crops like corn and soybeans have a March 15, 2011 deadline. Farmers interested in SURE coverage for 2011 should contact their county FSA office soon and determine if they need to buy crop insurance coverage for some of their crops this fall.

Based on each farm's historical production information and the USDA price for each crop, FSA will determine if each of your crops meets eligibility for SURE and thus needs to be insured. Even if a farm never sells a crop, but feeds it to livestock, the crop still counts towards expected revenue and so may need to be insured. However, exceptions apply. Land for grazing does not require insurance coverage, nor does forage in its seeding year. Also, waivers apply for socially disadvantaged, limited resource and beginning farmers. Other possibilities exist. Farmers interested in SURE should contact their county FSA office soon or risk being ineligible for 2011. Also, see the UWEX Information Bulletin "Insuring Forage for SURE" for explanations on the options for insuring forage in Wisconsin and ways to reduce insurance premiums.

Additional Resources

- **USDA-FSA SURE Fact Sheets and Calculator:** <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>
- **Insuring Forage for SURE:** UWEX Information Bulletin by P.D. Mitchell, September 7, 2010: http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/SURE_Forage.pdf
- Contact your county FSA office for more information regarding the specifics of SURE for your operation and for help using the SURE Calculator.