

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
Lac du Flambeau

Meeting called to order at 8:12 am by Jonathan Pyatskowitz

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill), FCPC (Nate Guldán), Ho-Chunk (Sara Schmidt), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Jacob Maas), St. Croix (Katie Stariha, Tony Havranek), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke Hennigan)

Others present: Matt Otto (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS), Greg Rebman (NRCS), Mike Koehler (NRCS), Eric Oliphant (BIA), Mike Preul (Mole Lake), Owen Martin (USFS), Chad Waukechon (College of Menominee Nation), Jim Ruppel (EPA), Stan Gruszynski (RD), Dave Batiste (Lac du Flambeau), Derek Taylor (WTCAC Intern), Mike Arce (WTCAC Intern), Joe Mulroy (St. Croix), Don Taylor (St. Croix), Susan Hunter (FSA), Dan Cornelius (IAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Tom Melnarik (NRCS), Roger Weber (WTCAC Intern), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Melissa Johnson (WTCAC Intern), Randall Wollenhaup (Stockbridge-Munsee)

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the May 11, 2011 minutes. Motion by St. Croix, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, Ho-Chunk abstains, motion carried.

3. USFS Update

New Deputy Supervisor Owen Martin introduced himself. Paul Strong is the new Forest Supervisor for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. He works in Rhinelander and their door is always open. There was a suggestion to work with tribes to let them know what is going on with marijuana grows in the National Forest. Woods aren't the way they used to be, growers have moved to this state and are growing. They are mostly nationals from other countries. Keep your eyes open and if you see something that doesn't seem right it probably isn't.

4. Approval of Agenda

Need to add a discussion on Forest Management Plans with BIA, NRCS, etc to the agenda.

MOTION: Motion to approve the May agenda with addition. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

5. Rural Development Update

Rural Development assists with a lot of infrastructure in Wisconsin, housing, and business programs. They do a lot of community facility expenditures including working with the tribes in WI. Rural Development invested money in Lac du Flambeau's fish hatchery and it was nice to come back to see that it has been successful and they are expanding. The House of Representatives is not willing to continue "entitlement programs" Their argument is that we have too much debt and the way to address it is to cut these programs to get things under control. Here in Wisconsin, Rural Development works closely with other USDA agencies. Secretary Vilsack has undertaken a cultural transformation and he has decided USDA does not look like America as there is not enough diversity in employees and they are not addressing the broad spectrum of needs in America. He has asked all the state directors to look hard at the kind of things they can be doing to change the culture in USDA. They will be holding listening sessions on each reservation to see how things are going, what the needs are and how can they attract Native Americans to work for Rural Development. USDA nationally is holding listening sessions. There will be a listening session on September 23 in Lac du Flambeau with national USDA leadership. Economic development should be done so it doesn't degrade the environment. There is a conference in Wausau in October to look at things they can do in collaboration with the Federal Reserve to look at business opportunities for Reservations and Northern Wisconsin. Rural Development's Tribal liaison is going to have more of her time dedicated to being a liaison. She will be contacting the tribes shortly to start setting up meetings with Tribal leaders. Stan will try to get info out to Jerry on the Sept 23 conference.

6. NRCS Update

Matt Otto was here on Pat Leavenworth's behalf. Pat is sorry she couldn't be here. They are wrapping up FY2011 efforts and getting ready for 2012. The budget is a big question mark. They are putting in a request and an evaluation of what they have done and what they want to accomplish. There may be a smaller pot overall to receive funds from but they are hoping to position Wisconsin to do well. They are hoping to maintain EQIP and WHIP for next year. New change for next year, they just found out that they are going to be moving to a central payment schedule for scenarios and rates for practices. This will be a significant challenge. They would anticipate the 90% rate for Tribes to remain. This is coming from the top down. Nationally they have struggled to maintain consistency in how states set payment rates, they are trying to get more consistency. Will they be consulting with the Tribes on this? They need to be consulting with Tribes on this. Do most other states have a similar structure as Wisconsin does? Each state has had a lot of flexibility in what practices they offer, what scenarios, payment rates, etc. They all have to follow same basic format but have flexibility.

Fisheries Initiative – Well over a year ago proposals were made to offer aquaculture practices. They put together an initiative to Headquarters requesting \$100K/yr for 3 years for aquaculture practices. It was submitted through WHIP; however they heard back that it would fit better

under EQIP. It was resubmitted under EQIP and reviewed at Headquarters. Headquarters was fine with the idea but we didn't receive any special funding. Wisconsin submitted a request for extra funds, they did receive additional funds but as a state they set aside \$100k for aquaculture practices. They worked with folks here to put together some payment schedules. They had a brief sign up that ended July 15 and received 2 applications (Mole Lake and St. Croix). They do not have enough to fund both applications. The projects will be ranked and will dictate who is at the top of the list for the funds. These practices should be in the normal sign up for 2012. Jerry – Initially we looked at doing the fisheries initiative and looked at doing a WTCAC ranking and looking at specific practices that might be necessary for aquaculture. Then all the sudden we were notified that they had \$100k for aquaculture practices (straight EQIP money). Keith started running around checking on sites and 2 tribes responded back that they were interested. It was fast and furious for about 2 – 3 weeks. Typically we don't compete against each other, usually handled by consensus. This one has to get competed. Both tribes need \$100K as each project will take \$175K. Jerry and Keith went and looked at both sites and evaluated the needs. They looked at it to make sure it met EQIP program rules. They filled out CPE Worksheets and from that information they came up with new questions, new points, and scoring for this particular sign up and for this particular practice only. This is how the ranking sheet got developed; Jerry felt it was a fair as could be. Tony Bush handed out the ranking sheet. The only thing they changed was the local questions. Of the 30 questions, only 5 remained. There are 6 practices so the questions were geared around the 6 practices. Matt – there is going to be a review of both applications so that everything is being interpreted the same way as far as the ranking questions are concerned. They will complete the ranking today and report back this afternoon.

Mole Lake's Project – They put in a project for a hatchery that is in need for replacement, they have one small pond that they have had difficulty with. At the existing site, they have water quantity issues; 2 years ago they identified a new site on the Reservation that will give them all the water they need. They want to build a new complex. They had a great need for expanding their fish hatchery or these ponds so they can raise walleyes to different sizes. They are involved in many walleye restoration projects across the ceded territory. They really have nothing right now and they are trying to build something from nothing. They think they have a great site and have a lot of expansion possibilities on that site. The \$100k would be a big step for them.

St. Croix's Project – Tony suggested that we may want to revisit the ranking questions. Their project is very similar to Mole Lake's Project. They have 11 acres set aside; they wanted to go bigger but were limited by funding. They would put in 2 ponds that would produce fingerlings. They are looking at two water sources; one well and one surface water draw. They will let water infiltrate, no discharge to surface water. They currently have one outlying pond in a pasture and the land is currently rented. With the extended drought they have had, they had to abandon one of the ponds. It got so shallow that the temps were too high and dissolved oxygen was too low.

There is a problem with the weeds in the current pond and it is 10 acres so it is hard to harvest the fish. Cows are pastured on sight.

NRCS posted vacancy announcement for Tribal Liaison position in the state to be located in Medford.

7. EPA Update

Jim Ruppel – RTOC meeting is next week at Red Lake. The next RTOC will be somewhere here in Wisconsin. In August there is a mining workshop in Chicago. There will be a tribal healthy homes and lead training in Michigan in Sault Ste. Marie. The lead training is on October 24 and the healthy homes training is October 25 - 27. There is tribal scholarship money available. See the following web site <http://tribalhealthyhomes.org/michigan.html> for more information. The Tribal Lands Forum is August 25 – 27 at Oneida. DBE meeting and fair share issue was brought up. Jim should have forwarded the letter from Adrienne Callahan to everyone on the DBE fair share issue. It should not prove to be too onerous of a process for most tribes. Some or most tribes may prove to be exempt based on the percentage of EPA grants given in the form of a PPG or Technical Assistance Grants, contact Adrienne Callahan at 312-353-5556 for details. A Notice of Consultation on the new GAP policy was sent out. The comment period runs from August 1 to the end of September. Last week they held the first of two calls on the change to the Wisconsin phosphorus standard. Jim has to do TEA reviews, he needs to sit down with each tribe and go through them with us. He would like to do tours with each Tribe in conjunction with this. He will be contacting us.

8. Technical Service Provider Discussion

Rena Anderson - They have 18 months to develop these tribal Technical Service Providers. This is very high profile and the national office is very pleased they are taking this step. Chad Waukechon from Menominee College will be heading the project. He handed out a flyer for the Climate Change Summit coming up at the end of August at Menominee College. He would like to develop a subcommittee to work on this so we don't have to address all the details in the process during meetings.

Forestry plans – Would take existing Forest Management Plans and adapt it to meet the requirements from NRCS. He thinks they are fairly close already, but having the TSP available to develop and certify the plans and adapt to program standards and financial assistance requirements.

NRCS would pay TSP for plans at the 90% rate. FMP is considered a practice. BIA plans are reservation wide and are broad plans; NRCS plans are very specific to certain tracts of land. Maybe someone from each Tribe can get certified in this?

Forestry Subcommittee – BIA, USFS, Jerry, Greg from NRCS, Scott McDougall (Lac du Flambeau), Al Murray (FCPC), Greg Yakle

Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee – Jerry, Greg Yakle, Roman Ferdinand (Mole Lake), Jacob Maas (Red Cliff), Luke Hennigan (Stockbridge-Munsee), Nate Guldan (FCPC), Greg Yakle

9. FSA Update

Susan Hunter gave the report with a handout (attached).

10. IAC

Dan Cornelius - Keepseagle Settlement would go to producers. An instance of discrimination must have been reported to be eligible. Reporting an issue to the tribal council would have constituted a claim. If you have individuals that may qualify please send Dan an email. It is a onetime deal and needs to be developed by Dec 22. This was for access to funding that could have allowed them to get started 20 years ago and who knows where they would have been today if they got this assistance. His position was created out of this court decision. There are still structural barriers to getting assistance. There are very few people in this region that qualify for FSA right now. How do we get more individuals the skills, expertise and resources to develop businesses (maple syrup for example)?

He has been across the region (MN, MI, and WI) and he is seeing that in the northern parts of the region food production is based off of effective natural resources management. He thinks we are uniquely positioned to figure out how to put an emphasis on food production, possibly for income, when doing Forest Management Plans.

It seems like all the tribes have some sort of initiative with community gardens, he thinks it is exciting. He is working on some programs and initiatives to help support it.

Some of the challenges: conventional farming instead of other things, tribes should have same resources as the dairy farmer in southern Wisconsin. There will be major cuts after August 2. How can they do more with less, how can they use the resources that are available?

He is looking into starting a food network among tribes from wild rice at Leech Lake, to white corn at Oneida, to walleye at Red Lake.

He is working on sustainable agricultural centers with Menominee and Fond du Lac. He is also working on a beginning farmer program. By opening up these centers it would open up doors to funding and other collaborations.

He is putting together a guide on food system planning. How can we create integrated food systems? How can you fund an operation sustainably?

He has been working with APHIS and putting together an EAB workshop in Michigan. They are confident that biological control wasps can be established to control the beetle.

He is also working on a seed distribution project. He is looking to take it on more of a regional scale to make it as easy as possible for people to grow their own food that want to do it.

He has direct contacts with USDA so if you have an issue let him know and he will check into it.

IAC was chartered in 1987. They have been based out of Montana so mostly focused on grazing issues; he is trying to bring the great lakes perspective out in the organization.

11. Small Project Updates

Because of grant extension, the small projects do not need to be completed by the end of September.

Oneida – They are on track to finish the project

Ho-Chunk – They are on schedule

Mole Lake – All field work has been completed so the modeling part is going to begin and is on schedule

Red Cliff – They held a fish compost course and plant give away. FSA and NRCS were at it for educational purposes. Their Vice Chairman is going to lead the development of the hoop house

St. Croix – They may have extra money and are on schedule

12. Intern Presentations

Roger Weber is working with NRCS out of Rhinelander and Mole Lake. He thanked us for the opportunity. Pioneer Farm was a great experience. He has worked with Forestry in Mole Lake including a birch release program so the birch can be used for cultural uses, reseeded logging trials, learned how to do survey and timber lines. Now with NRCS he is learning how to survey. What he learned this summer he will use in his future career.

Derek Taylor is working with NRCS in Spooner. He worked on a carbon assessment to see how much carbon is in the soil, grass lined waterway, measuring crop residue, milked cows in Platteville, visited deer farm, St. Croix fish hatchery, spent one day at rural development

Mike Arce is working with NRCS in Shawano and at Menominee. Four days a week he is in Keshena, 1 day he is in Shawano with NRCS. He has done fish population surveys, stream

habitat assessments, sampled for zebra mussel larvae, lake sturgeon sampling, and black bear research.

Melissa Johnson is working with Oneida. She has worked on an aquaponics project, an invasive species project, and worked on a hoop house. Her project for the summer was to help create management plans for parcels of land and she has assisted with wetland delineations.

Charles Wiggins is working with APHIS but couldn't make it as he had family issues to deal with however his boss was here. He has worked on population control of Canada geese, LCO and Bad River agreements for trapping wolves, nuisance bear trapping and management, the with the disease biologist in Madison. His project for the summer was work on Graveyard Creek.

13. Ranking of Fisheries Projects

St. Croix received the funding; we should look at the ranking tool in the future and take what we learned from this project.

14. INCA

Jonathan was appointed to the INCA Board. His current term will run through 2012 as he will be serving out the term of the board member who resigned. He is going to Montana to work on the INCA strategic plan on August 23 – 25.

15. Mining Conferences

There are 3 different mining conferences coming up. One is being held by US EPA in Chicago on August 9 and 10. The second one is in Bad River from September 12 – 14. The third one is also at Bad River and is being held on September 21 and 22.

16. WTCAC Program Manager Report

WTCAC has issues with the draft Indian Agriculture Act. It has all NRCS contracting coming through BIA, so we really want this? WHIP is mentioned in it but EQIP is not. **Read through it and provide Jerry some comments.** We should pull Jim Thannum in on this.

Jerry handed out our quarterly financial report. He has been asking if we can use grant money for liability insurance but cannot get an answer. He will check with Dave Armstrong on it.

They were pleased with the resubmitted budget for the FY2012 2501 Grant.

Jerry passed out the quarterly report to Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

It has been decided that APHIOS will not buy motors for VHS sampling. They may want the other motor back that was purchased as well as the shocking equipment.

Dates for calendar:

- DOI Land Consolidation Meeting in Minneapolis on August 18. This has to do with fractionated land and buying it and giving it back to the Tribe – if a parcel through heirship has multiple owners they are buying people out and giving it back
- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) from September 12 – 15 at Menominee.
- MN TCAC training is being scheduled for November 28 – December 2

Jerry went to Jean Buffalo's funeral and gave the family a ½ gallon of maple syrup on WTCAC's behalf. Pat Leavenworth and Jerry spoke at a service the night before the funeral and they spoke on what she had done for WTCAC. Family wanted to say thank you to WTCAC for what we did for her over the years.

Jerry handed out his timesheets.

It was discussed that WTCAC will accept Small Project Proposals at the November Meeting.

It was discussed that preproposals for FY 2012 EQIP/WHIP Projects at will be due at the November meeting. Please make sure to get out with your tribal liaisons and start planning your projects for next year.

Send Jerry thoughts and ideas about our NAFWS presentation on using EQIP and WHIP for fish and wildlife benefit.

17. Technical Recommendations

Some ideas for technical recommendations next year: bridges, access roads for 2-way traffic, and larger culverts

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7 – 8 at Mole Lake. This will be a full, 2 day meeting. The morning of the 7th, the WI Tribal Caucus will be on the agenda, the afternoon of the 7th will be a discussion on EQIP/WHIP ranking, and the 8th will be a regular WTCAC meeting.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

EMAIL MINUTES 8/18/11

Jerry received the new contract agreements for next year's 2501 Grant and the APHIS VHS grant. They arrived with him listed as the Authorized Representative to sign the agreements. However, our By-laws state the President is to sign all agreements unless (as stipulated under Article VII of the By-laws) a vote by the Council of Representatives authorizes an "agent" one-time authority to commit WTCAC to such agreements.

MOTION: Motion to authorize Program Manager Jerry Thompson to commit WTCAC to the Fiscal Year 2012 2501 Grant Extension and the Fiscal Year 2012 APHIS VHS Contract by signing as the WTCAC Authorized Representative. Motion by FCPC seconded by St. Croix. Nine ayes (FCPC, St. Croix, LCO, Menominee, Bad River, Mole Lake, Ho-Chunk, Lac du Flambeau, Oneida), zero opposed, motion carried.



United States Farm and Foreign Farm OFFV FSA Office
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FSA REPORT TO WTCAC – JULY 2011

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison (715) 362-5941 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Keepseagle v. Vilasck: A \$760 million settlement with USDA has been reached in this class action lawsuit which claimed USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program. Native American farmers may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some or all of their outstanding farm loans if they applied for or attempted to apply for a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999. (See attached document). A listing of questions and answers about this class action lawsuit claim process is also available upon request to those interested.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process – Compensation for Claims of Discrimination: Any farmer who believes that USDA improperly denied them farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic, Latino or female are eligible to apply for compensation of discrimination through an option set up by USDA for a streamlined process to resolve their claims simply. (See attached document).

July 29 Deadline to Apply for 2009 Crop Loss Benefits under FSA's SURE Program: Any farmers who suffered significant losses on their 2009 crops should contact the local county FSA office before July 29th to apply for revenue loss benefits under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. (See attached press release)

September 30th Deadline for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers: Farmers who suffered tree, bush or vine losses from January 2008 through September 2011 can apply for loss assistance under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) by September 30th. This program provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible. (See attached press release)

Assistance for Livestock Losses Due to Recent High Temperatures: Livestock producers who incur eligible livestock death losses due to the recent extreme temperatures and other adverse weather events may be eligible for the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. (See attached press release)

Wild Rice Eligibility – I received some valuable information from Jim Thannum on tribal wild rice production and harvest in Wisconsin for Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) loss coverage policies with FSA. I was able to get someone from the national office to work with me on this issue and I hope to have something to report at the next meeting about eligibility. I may still need information from the individual tribes on their wild rice management and harvest/distribution/sale of production.

County Committee Elections – Most all counties in Wisconsin will be holding an election in a portion of their county for an individual that is actively farming to serve a three year term on the local County FSA Committee. All offices are also looking for a female or minority advisor to serve one-year terms on the local Committee so that their voice is heard. If anyone is interested they should contact their local FSA office before August 1st, as that is the deadline to file a nomination petition and get on the local ballot as a nominee. (See Nomination Form Attached)

Questions and Answers About *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*

The following are questions and answers about *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

If You are a Native American Who Was Denied a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing by the USDA, You Could Receive Benefits from a Class Action Settlement.

A federal Court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A \$760 million Settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) has been reached in the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class action lawsuit. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program.
- You may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some or all of your outstanding USDA loans if you applied for or attempted to apply for a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999 (see Question 4).
- The USDA has also agreed to make some changes to its farm loan programs to help make sure that these programs meet the needs of Native American farmers and ranchers.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THE SETTLEMENTS

SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	The only way to get money and any loan forgiveness from the Settlement.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT	Get no benefit from this Settlement. If you want to pursue your claim on your own or want to file a claim of discrimination in another lawsuit charging the USDA with discrimination against African Americans, Women or Hispanics, you should choose this option.
OBJECT/COMMENT	Remain in the Settlement and write to the Court about any concerns you have about the Settlement.
GO TO A HEARING	Remain in the Settlement and ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement.
DO NOTHING	Get no money or loan forgiveness. Give up rights to sue the USDA about the claims in this lawsuit.

- These rights and options – and the deadlines to exercise them – are explained in this notice.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. Payments will be made if the Court approves the Settlement and after any appeals have concluded and the claims process is completed. Please be patient.

For More Information: Call 1-888-233-5506 or Visit www.IndianFarmClass.com

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process: Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

- Since the first days of the Obama Administration, we have worked to write a new chapter for civil rights at USDA. We have taken comprehensive, definitive actions to move the Department into a new era as a model employer and premier service provider.
- We believe that every farmer and rancher should be treated equally and fairly and we are committed to resolving all cases involving allegations of past discrimination by individuals, including Hispanic and women farmers.
- As part of our work towards this new era we announced a settlement with black farmers to address pending claims, and finalized a historic settlement agreement with Native American farmers who claim to have faced discrimination by USDA in past decades.
- And the claims process we announced on February 25, 2011, will turn the page on allegations of discrimination made against the Department by Hispanic and women farmers and provide compensation to a final group of individuals who faced discrimination.
- Together with the Department of Justice, we are providing Hispanic, Latino and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination an option for a streamlined process to resolve their claims simply.
- As we move through this claims process, we will continue our work so that fairness and inclusion serve as the foundation of everything we do at USDA, and that each employee and customer is treated fairly and equitably, with dignity and respect.
- Never again should hard-working Americans be forced off a farm their family has tilled for generations because they can't get the help they deserve to make it through a bad harvest, or are denied a loan to repair a broken tractor. The American people deserve no less.

Background on Unified Claims Process

- In recent years, Federal courts decided not to certify the lawsuits brought by Hispanic and women farmers as class actions. This means that the individual farmers were left with one option: to take their claims individually through the federal court system.
- Having to rely on the courts might discourage many farmers from seeking redress because of the significant financial and time resources required for an individual lawsuit. The process we announced will help folks resolve their claims more simply. .
- If you believe that USDA improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, Latino, or female you can find information about the claims process at www.farmerclaims.gov or by calling 1-888-508-4429.
- Claimants will have 180 days from the opening date of the Claims Period, to be announced by the USDA, within which to file a complete Claims Package.
- As part of this claims process, USDA will conduct extensive outreach and notice efforts to Hispanic and/or women farmer communities so that all eligible farmers and ranchers learn about this option and are provided an opportunity to participate.



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
WI Farm Service Agency

8030 Excelsior Dr. Ste 100
Madison, WI 53717

Release No. 08.07.2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FSA Reminds Producers of the 2009 SURE Sign-up Deadline

(MADISON, WISCONSIN), July 8, 2011 – Wisconsin’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the sign-up deadline for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program is July 29, 2011.

SURE provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss adjusted for quality on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

In Wisconsin, all counties **except** the following were determined primary or contiguous for 2009:

Columbia	Dane
Dodge	Fond du Lac
Green Lake	Jefferson
Marquette	Milwaukee
Ozaukee	Racine
Sauk	Washington
Waukesha	

Forty-five of Wisconsin’s 72 Counties have been approved for the use of **quality adjustments** due to low test weights and/or excess moisture in corn for the 2009 crop year. Producers that request a quality adjustment must have verifiable production evidence to support their request for a quality adjustment with the exception of excess moisture related evidence. Wisconsin FSA was recently authorized a waiver of the verifiable evidence provision for excess moisture. This waiver allows the use of propane/LP usage records to prove the corn crop met or exceeded the quality adjustment factor established for the county.

If you have applied for 2009 SURE and did not take the quality adjustment for excess moisture for corn grain because you lacked the required evidence or inquired about the program and did not apply because you lacked the quality adjustment evidence to become eligible for program benefits, please contact your local FSA Office for details regarding the change in this requirement. All changes must be completed by the July 29, 2011 deadline.

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

For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

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NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
WI Farm Service Agency

8030 Excelsior Dr. Ste 100
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Release No. 27.06.2011
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FSA Reminds Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers of September 30th TAP Deadline

(MADISON, WISCONSIN), June 27, 2011 – Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds orchardists and nursery tree growers who suffer tree, bush or vine losses prior to October 1, 2011, must file for loss within 90 calendar days from the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent to be eligible for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

TAP provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to a natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees, bushes and vines, or preparing land to plant new trees, bushes and vines.

Producers can receive assistance for a cumulative total of up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines for the life of the program. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

For more information about the new TAP program, please contact your county FSA office or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
WI Farm Service Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin FSA Provides Assistance for Recent High Temperature Livestock Losses

(MADISON, WISCONSIN), July 19, 2011 – Livestock producers who incur eligible livestock death losses due to the recent extreme temperatures and other adverse weather events may be eligible for the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

"Producers who suffered eligible livestock losses due to adverse weather will be required to provide documentation of the livestock lost and documentation of losses due to normal mortality for the calendar year," said Brad Pfaff, State Executive Director. "FSA staff can provide producers with a list of acceptable loss documentation that includes proof of death, producer records and verifiable inventory documentation."

For livestock losses that occur in calendar year 2011, producers will have until, the earlier of, 30 days after the livestock loss become apparent to file a notice of loss to FSA, or no later than October 31, 2011. In addition, producers will have until January 30, 2012, to apply for payment.

Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties, who are not affiliated with the farming operation, may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records is not available. Verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are also required with such third party certifications.

LIP indemnity payments will be based on 75 percent of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA.

Producers need to contact their local FSA County Offices to sign up for LIP. Producers can also learn more about LIP by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov.

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FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2011.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. COUNTY 6. LAA _____ 7. STATE _____	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.	
3B. DATE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**