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TAP (Tree Assistance Program) signup began May 10 and the final date to submit an application and supporting documentation will be July 6.

This will include losses suffered during calendar years 2008, 2009 and for losses suffered during Jan. 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must: 1) Suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand. 2) Have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes, and vines are planted. 3) Replace eligible trees, bushes, vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

For more information on this program, please contact the office.

Acreage reporting must be completed for producers who want to participate in SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program.) All crops, in all counties, in which they have an ownership share and risk must be reported. This includes crops on cropland and/or noncropland, including native or improved grass that will be mechanically harvested.

Signup for 2010 DCP (Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program) will continue through June 1, 2010.

All signatures on the contract must be returned by this deadline. We do not anticipate any extensions at this time.

USDA computes DCP payments using the base acres and payment yield established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm.

Once again you have a choice of enrolling in the DCP program or selecting ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election Program). ACRE is an option that protects the crop revenue from both price and/or production declines. ACRE is based on the farm's actual planted acres, not to exceed the total of all base acres on the farm.

Participants in ACRE will give up all counter-cyclical payments and have a 20 percent reduction in direct payments and a 30 percent reduction in marketing loan rates, which also affect LDP rates.

ACRE is an irrevocable election on a per farm basis for the crop year the election is made through the 2012 crop year. All owners and operators on a farm must agree to the ACRE election. Once the ACRE election is made, the farm continues to be in ACRE until 2012. If an ACRE farm is bought or sold, it remains in ACRE. An ACRE election must be completed by June 1 of each year. This option will be discussed with you as you sign up for the DCP program.

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as

mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.

Spot treatment for noxious and other types of weeds may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met.

The ending date for the primary nesting season in Nebraska is July 15.

Please check your CRP for noxious weeds and after spraying them, please bring your invoices into the office to keep your files current. The office will soon be conducting their spring spot-check of randomly chosen CRP contracts, so if you find your noxious weeds and spray them, provide an invoice to the office prior to our visit, it could keep your contract in compliance.

June 1, 2010 is the final date to obtain a 2009 Crop Feed Grain Loan/LDP and the office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 31.

If you still would like to get a loan, please contact the office as soon as possible, so the needed paperwork can get finalized prior to June 1.

June 30, 2010 is final reporting date or certifying your wheat and other small grains acreages to our office.

With all of the approaching deadlines, it is imperative that you try to keep your appointments and be sure to check your phone message machines. Please return all signatures in a timely manner. If you would like to be contacted by email, please provide your email address to us.