



June 2010

Lassen Plumas Sierra FSA News

Lassen County FSA

170 Russel Ave
Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4127
(530) 257-5252 FAX

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Director:

Joe Gassaway

County Office Staff:

Debi Michaels

Farm Loan Manager:

Katherine Lewis
(Yreka)

Reporting Crop Acreage

Crop acreage reports must be completed with the Lassen County FSA Office by July 15, 2010.

Aerial photocopies have been sent out to many farmers. If you don't get one soon, contact our office. The mailing out of aerial photos for crop reporting is a service of this office and not an agency requirement. Please get these completed and returned as soon as possible. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All crop and rangeland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, including Wool, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the 2010 Livestock Forage Program. Late filed reports are charged a fee for a farm visit for crop verification.

Prevented planting: Must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop. Crop acreage reports will be revised for prevented planting history credit following county committee review of the applications. Note to producers with crop insurance coverage: Crop Insurance prevented planting coverage provisions differ from FSA prevented planting history credit provisions. FSA history credit is determined by FSA farm number, not by producer.

Failed acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop and producers must be able to establish that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted due to a natural disaster.

2010 Livestock Forage Program.

Lassen and Plumas Counties were recently approved for the 2010 LFP. Producers who purchased a 2010 NAP grazing policy should schedule an appointment to apply for 2010 benefits. The final date to apply is January 30, 2011. If you're a livestock producer and are interested in the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) for 2010, keep in mind you **MUST** have purchased a NAP policy for grazing or meet an exception provision for Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource,

or Beginning Rancher. Contact this office for additional information concerning the exception provisions. **Pasture and Rangeland acreage reports must be made by July 15, to avoid late fees.**

NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The final date to purchase a NAP policy for 2011 is listed on the chart on page 4. Immature fruit trees are not eligible for NAP coverage

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a **"Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to abnormal crop damaging weather.**

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for any and all program payments and benefits. If convicted, the participant shall be ineligible for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans up to a maximum of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is needed.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Emergency Farm Loans

The Secretary of Agriculture, on November 13, 2009, declared a disaster designation in Lassen County based on damages and losses caused by drought. This designation makes Lassen and contiguous counties eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses caused by drought, which occurred on January 1, 2009, and continuing.

Farmers have eight (8) months from the declaration date to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

The eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to drought mentioned above,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet other eligibility criteria.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, which reflects the exact date(s) nature of the designated disaster and how it caused the loss or damage. Crop insurance field reports may be a source for documenting losses directly related to the cited cause.

Applications should be filed with Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan

Manager, at the FSA office in Yreka at 215 Executive Court, Suite C, Yreka, CA, 96097. For more information, contact Katherine at 530- 842-6123.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

FSA Committee Election

Nominations are being accepted now for this fall's county committee elections. The position for representatives of one area will be up for election:

LAA3. Eastern Lassen County All areas east of Highway 395 in Lassen County.

Three positions will be filled for this area: Regular Member, First Alternate and Second Alternate. If you are interested in being on the ballot and serving on the committee, please submit a nomination form (FSA-669A). Nomination petitions must be postmarked by August 2, 2010.

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, is eligible to vote in FSA elections, and actively participates in the operation of a farm or ranch.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

FSA-669A (03-24-10) Page 2

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A (03-24-10)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency	
NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION			
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name) [REDACTED]		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE [REDACTED]		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED [REDACTED]	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>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.</i> <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 [REDACTED]	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		6. LAA [REDACTED]	7. STATE [REDACTED]
3B. DATE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>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.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
		8B. DATE	
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

Lassen County FSA
170 Russel Ave, Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #22
Davis, CA 95616

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

Time out for Safety

Are your PTO shields and belt guards in place?

Selected Interest Rates for June 2010

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

Dates to Remember

On going	Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
On going	2008 SURE Program
summer	General CRP sign Up
1 March	NAP deadline: Annuals
15 July	Acreage Reports Due for all programs
1 Aug	Recons must be requested
1 Aug	NAP deadline: Oats/Wheat/Barley/Triticale grain
2 Aug	Deadline to postmark Committee Nominations
1 Sept	NAP deadline: Forage Seed crops (alfalfa seed)
1 Dec	NAP deadline: Grazed crops/Honey/Onions/Hay
15 Dec	NAP deadline: Fruit/Nut tree crops
31 Jan	NAP deadline: Apples (2011 crop)
Note:	NAP is not available for immature tree crops

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."