



March 2008

Madera County News

Madera County
USDA Service Center

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Reis Soares, Advisor

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NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

DDAP III Sign Up Resumes

Eligible dairy producers who suffered losses during 2005, 2006, or 2007 may now apply to receive benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP III) beginning March 5. The final rule published in the Federal Register on March 4 specifies that this newly reopened sign up period ends on May 5, 2008. No late filed applications will be accepted.

FSA began enrolling producers in DDAP III in late 2007. Then in early 2008 FSA temporarily halted sign up pending the completion of rulemaking. Based on public comments on the program elicited during this suspension, FSA made minor changes to the DDAP III rules.

To be eligible, a producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the president or declared a natural disaster area by the secretary of agriculture between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. Further eligibility is possible if an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice was issued. For further information, contact our office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Producers enrolled in the 2008 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) should have already or should expect their acreage reports in the mail. Please review your FSA 578's carefully as the acreage reported will be used for many FSA programs and can ultimately affect your payment.

Disaster Eligibility Date Extended

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act 2008 (2008 Act). The 2008 Act amended the previous February 28, 2007 date and now allows for crops planted prior to December 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Similarly, under Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed/grazing losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in the Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to December 31, 2007.

No Partial Counter-Cyclical Payments for Grains & Oilseeds

Based on supply/demand and price projections from USDA's World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, producers of crops **other than** cotton and peanuts, will not receive a second partial counter-cyclical payment. When effective commodity price projections are equal to or more than their respective target prices; the commodities do **not** qualify for counter-cyclical payments.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Flexible or Cash Lease

Producers should be careful to differentiate between flexible leases and cash leases when reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Flexible leases, in which the producer pays a base rent, and offers a bonus on yield and/or price increase to a landowner, are considered by the Farm Service Agency as share leases. Cash leases specifying a fixed amount, not subject to changes from yield or price are common and the norm across the country. Flexible or hybrid leases are now coming to the attention of FSA.

Each year FSA participants complete form CCC-502 Continuation Sheet for Leased or Owned Land which are subject to spot check. Paying more than what the original lease specifies may violate a producer's CCC-502, if not completed correctly. A violation could

make an operator ineligible for Direct Counter-cyclical Payments (DCP).

Example: A lease that is for \$100 acre plus an additional \$40 per acre if the crop exceeds \$4/bushel or 170 bushels corn/acre or \$7/bushel or 40 bushels of soybeans per acre is by FSA procedure a share lease. FSA procedure states that, a lease is a share lease if the lease bases the amount of rent on the quantity of crop produced or the proceeds from the crop, or the interest a producer would have if the crop had been produced.

Farm Loans Available from FSA

FSA may be able to assist your farming operation with an operating or ownership loan. The rate for operating loans approved in March 2008 is 3.75 percent.

It is the time of year where farmers begin thinking of our spring planting needs.

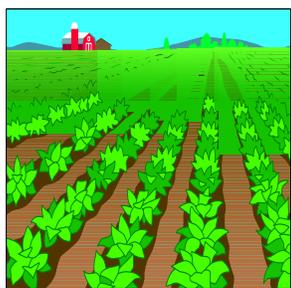
Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or you need to upgrade your equipment line with a new tractor, planter, baler or perhaps you have been thinking about expanding your operation or need credit to increase your production, FSA may be able to help."

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers, most do not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, they are farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations. Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss; in most cases this is a 90 percent guarantee of loss.

Contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office for more information.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational





teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

CONSERVATION CORNER

The Madera Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing the opportunity for eligible private landowners to receive, without charge, professional natural resource conservation planning services.

“Last year California was one of nine states that participated in a planning initiative and the results were encouraging.” Said State Conservationist Ed Burton of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service in California “Over 140 landowners worked with us to develop plans that are helping them solve natural resource concerns, meet environmental regulations and compete for financial assistance.” Last year, of the participants surveyed, 100 percent agreed that the conservation planning process was beneficial and said they would recommend it to other landowners.

The conservation planning service provides a professional analysis of a landowner’s natural resources and helps owner/managers craft alternatives based on their goals and budget. The alternatives can include engineering, ag-

ronomic, soils and biological solutions to address problems such as erosion, polluted water, dust, pesticide and nutrient runoff, and more. Plans can also be developed to further enhance already-healthy land or to augment land for habitat beneficial to fish and wildlife. Contact the NRCS office at 559-674-2108 ext 3 for more information.

Farm Word Search

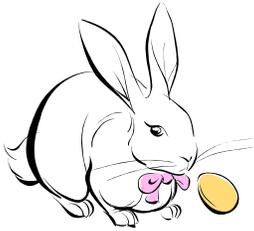
Y R H A A D G O F A U K S S O
 N R O Z O A L I E A S L N E C
 H L R T C X Q X P N U I Q P F
 Z E F E C A P P L E R M E A B
 E M W S B A R D A F J A C R E
 M O G H C W R A H N N O B G M
 T N G E W O A T E E W O O D A
 Y O S E V F R R I P C E C V E
 U W M P N P H N T S S H Q F R
 L R F A O C B X A S E G S J C
 I C E T T K M L K E T G G B B
 O K A X O O M W S A A R V E P
 S T J S O O F E E Z T U S Y V
 O F Z A N F J H K D Z Z I F E
 C W E Z Z P W F M Y U O X Q W

APPLE	MILK	BARN
PEAR	CHEESE	PIG
CORN	POTATO	COW
SALMON	CREAM	SHEEP
EGGS	GRAPES	TOMATO
ICE	LEMON	TRACTOR
WHEAT	STRAWBERRY	

Match the English word with the Spanish word

Apple	uva
Pear	pera
Peach	limon
Grape	melocoton
Orange	manzana
Strawberry	fresa
Banana	platano
Lemon	anaranjado





Visit our Web site
 at
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

Dates to Remember

March 5	DDAP III Sign up Reopens
May 5	DDAP III Sign up ends
April 30	Acreage Report deadline for fall seeded grain crops
May	Memorial Day-Office Closed
July 4	Independence Day-Office Closed
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline-all other crops

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