



November 2009

Merced-Mariposa FSA News

On the Radar

It is the start of twenty-ten and deadlines are quickly approaching. New crop disaster programs require crop insurance and/or NAP coverage on all crops in all counties in all states in which you participate. Contact your local crop insurance provider for CI sales closing dates and FSA for NAP sales closing dates (see also back page).

2008 & 2009 LFP Signup Livestock Forage Program

Livestock operators who purchased NAP or "bought-in" to the 2008 and/or 2009 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) need to contact the FSA Office and sign and application by December 10, 2009. LFP pays for feed losses due to the severe drought experienced in Merced and Mariposa Counties in both 2008 & 2009. Call Lydia for an appointment.

LFP Maps

Want to keep track of weekly LFP Payment Eligibility maps go to:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=lfp>

2010 NAP Signup Noninsured Crops Disaster Assistance Program

FSA sells the equivalent of the catastrophic level of crop insurance on those crops not covered by private insurance including native rangeland. This coverage protects fifty percent of your production at fifty-five percent of the NAP price. Coverage is \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county and limited to \$1,875 per producer. Don't miss out on NAP as this is your ticket to participate in almost all other crop disaster programs. Call Lydia for rangeland and Sandra for crops.

2010 DCP Signup Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

DCP Signup is underway. All farms must be signed up by **June 1, 2010**. As soon as your fall seeded small grains are planted and your lease agreements are in place, call Michael for an appointment. If you sign up in November and December you can request that 22% advance payment in January.

The ACRE Option Average Crop Revenue Election

ACRE is an option for those producers who actually grow commodity crops and pulse crops. ACRE elections are irrevocable and all owners and operators on the farm must agree to an ACRE election. Contact the FSA Office as soon as you know what crops you are planting in 2010 so that FSA can assist you with some comparisons between DCP and ACRE.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE is the new crop disaster program. FSA will soon be accepting applications for 2008 crop losses. Eligible producers had to have purchased or timely "bought-in" coverage on insurable crops through private insurance and NAP crops with their FSA Office. For those of you who purchased crop insurance but did not complete and FSA-578, Report of Acreage to their local FSA Office, call Sandra today to make an appointment to set up your farm records to get a jump on the process.

USDA
Merced and Mariposa
Farm Service Agency

Laura J. Westerfield
County Executive Director
2135 Wardrobe Avenue
Suite B
Merced, CA 95341

209-722-4119 ext 2
209-725-2964 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

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

Merced-Mariposa Staff

LaVon Treasure
Farm Loan Manager

Farm Loan Officers
Amy Cody
Terrick Boley

Farm Loan Technician
Phyllis Boyle

Farm Program Technicians
Gizela Meirinho-Gover
Sandra Nunes
Michael Oliveira
Lydia Swilley

County Committee
Lucy Nunes
Pierre Perret
Art Richards
RoseAnn Serrano
Jose Vazquez



2010 Acreage Reports

Acreage reporting is extremely important to establish and/or maintain program eligibility. Remember that we have gone to the whole farm concept and that all acres on all farms in all counties need to be reported.

April 30, 2010 is the last day to report small grains without paying a late-filed fee. Small grains and permanent crops can and should be reported to the FSA office as soon as the crop is in the ground.

July 15, 2010 is the final reporting date for all other crops without paying a late filed fee. For those crops planted after July 15 for harvest in 2010, a report must be filed not later than two weeks before the onset of harvest.

Please provide FSA with the crop type, intended use, planting date and crop share information. Michael has created an Excel Spreadsheet that he will email to you if requested to facilitate the crop reporting process.

2010 Late Filed Acreage Reports Fees

2010 Late filed acreage report fees are equal to \$30/farm plus \$16/hour for the first hour or portion thereof and \$8/hour for each half hour thereafter. Physical evidence of the crop must be in the field at the time a USDA representative visits the farm. If USDA is unable to verify the existence of the crop no acreage report will be accepted (NOTE: some FSA programs have exceptions however the exception only applies to the specific program and will not carry over to other programs making producers eligible.)

New Aerial Maps Available

We have new National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) maps available with imagery having been updated in June of 2009. Producers will be provided a new set of color maps for the 2010-2012 crop years. At this time FSA is of the understanding that new imagery will be available on a three year rotation. Due to the cost of the color toner needed to create these map copies, we do not anticipate printing a producer set of maps again until new imagery is provided.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be electing a new county committee representative to serve from 2010 thru 2012. LAA-1 is that area of the county from HWY 99 west to the San Joaquin River. More information will be in your mail soon.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact the loan team for more details and assistance in applying.

Farm Records Modifications

Farm Reconstitutions requests must be received in the FSA Office by June 1, 2010. If you are picking up new land or letting an old lease go, please contact the FSA Office as soon as possible. Planting flexibility allowed by some programs may make some farm combinations more beneficial to the operator however landowners must agree in writing for their land to be in combination with others.

Happy

Holidays!

From

Your

United

States

Department

Of

Agriculture

Service

Center.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically, LFP, LIP, and SURE.

December 10, 2009 is the deadline to apply for benefits for 2008/2009 losses. See table on last page.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for 2010 cost-share practices. We anticipate that **December 4, 2009** will be the end of signup. The official date has not yet been established, but to ensure that your application is considered for funding, please call and make an appointment today. Call NRCS in Merced at (209) 722-4119 **ext 3**, and in Mariposa at (209) 966-3431

NRCS works with agriculture producers to develop the EQIP plan of operations. This plan becomes the basis of the EQIP contract between NRCS and the participant. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land.

As a reminder, EQIP is a cost-share program whereby NRCS will reimburse approximately 50% of costs after project completion.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operation. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on the land.

Producers who enter into a 5-year contract have two payment options. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned by participants receiving an annual payment who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Contact NRCS in Merced at (209) 722-4119 EXT 3, and in Mariposa at (209) 966-3431.

Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification

Both FSA and NRCS programs require a 2010 certification of Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to be filed. Form CCC-926, AGI Statement, must be filed each year as the base years for which the individual or entity is making the certification changes each year. For 2010, individuals and entities will make their certification based on their 2006, 2007 and 2008 Federal Income Tax returns.

Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 72 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



Merced-Mariposa County
 FSA Office
 2135 W. Wardrobe Avenue
 Suite B
 Merced, CA 95341-6445



Dates to Remember	
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
Dec.1	2010 NAP Forage deadline includes wheat, barley, oats for hay, silage or grazing
Dec.1	2010 NAP Honey, onion sales closing date
Dec. 10	2008 LFP & ELAP Deadline
Dec. 10	2009 ELAP Deadline (losses Jan 01- Sept 10, 2009)
Dec. 15	2010 NAP Fruit / Nut Tree Crops deadline
Dec. 25	Christmas – Office Closed
Jan 1	New Year’s Day – Office Closed
Jan 30, 2010	2009 LFP Deadline
Jan 30, 2010	2009 ELAP Deadline (losses from Sept 14 – Dec 31, 2009)

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.750%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.00% to 3.625% depending on term
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

The Merced-Mariposa USDA Service Center is a drop-off location for:

**Canned Food for the Hungry
 Coats for Kids
 Toy’s for Tots**

Doing our part to help the less fortunate.

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