



# Modoc County News

## Modoc County USDA Service Center

**Modoc County FSA**  
802 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
530-233-4391 (phone)  
530-233-8869 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

**County Committee**  
Darrell DePaul  
Kathy Ackley  
Ron Schluter

**Staff**  
Marlene Hamilton,  
Program Technician  
  
Katherine Lewis,  
Farm Loan Officer (Yreka)  
  
Christopher Lauppe,  
Director



**Notice:**  
Annual Klamath, Siskiyou, Modoc Counties FSA producer meeting at Merrill Civic Center (upstairs), Thursday, August 28, 1:00 pm. Info. on programs offered in the new Farm Bill concerning farm loans and farm support programs.

## Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been extended to August 15, 2008. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (including Lamb and Wool).

Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

## CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

## Prevented Planting and/or Failed Acreage:

For 2008, County Committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage, if timely filed by August 15. Farm visits will not be required if claims are verified, and all other requirements are met.

## 2008 DCP Signup Continues

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

## Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs.



Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Contact our office for details or to pay applicable fees.

### ***NAP Coverage – Plan for 2009***

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. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to Dec. 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines were prior to Dec. 1, 2008**

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, 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 2008 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.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact the FSA office.

NAP coverage is available for all hay types (other than insurable alfalfa hay), Grass Graze (includes all meadows and rangeland) and other crops not covered under Multi-Peril Crop Insurance policies in the county.

### ***Payment Limitations***

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for the 2008 contract year. For all covered commodities: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

**Adjusted Gross Income** - Effective through 2008, an individual or entity shall **not** be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.



## **Farm Loan Programs**

The Farm Service Agency (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 for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. 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.

## **IRRIGATION POWER COSTS TOO HIGH? INTERESTED IN CUTTING YOUR BILL?**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Alturas Field Office and its associated local Resource Conservation Districts would like to offer a free evaluation of your current irrigation system.

\*This evaluation will cover your entire system, from pump to crop.

\*Recommendations will be given to make your systems more energy efficient and still meet the optimum needs of your crop.

\*Once the evaluation is complete, an opportunity to make the changes with cost share assistance may be available to anyone interested.

**To sign up for this free evaluation of your irrigation system, or anything else related to resource conservation, please call the Alturas NRCS Field Office at 233-4137 or come in to see us at 804 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Alturas.**

## **Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Application Closing Dates**

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) is available for the following crops in Modoc County with closing dates as indicated:

Cultivated Wild Rice – September 30

Winter Wheat for Grain – September 30

Mint (Winter Coverage Option) – Sept. 30

Forage Production (Alfalfa Hay) – Oct. 31

Onions (processed) – February 1

Potatoes – March 15

Spring Barley for Grain – March 15

Oats for Grain – March 15

Spring Wheat for Grain – March 15

Mint – March 15

Nursery crops – May 1

Livestock Risk Protection policies are available for: Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Lamb, and Swine.

MPCI has many coverage options available including the Catastrophic (CAT) Level of insurance. Contact your insurance agent for more information on **Multi-Peril Crop Insurance**.

For crops not covered above, the FSA offers Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. See page 2 for additional information.

NAP and CAT coverages are inexpensive and provide you with some reimbursement in the event of a major crop disaster.

**Eligibility for some Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs for 2009 thru 2012 requires that insurance be purchased for ALL crops grown by the producer. This may include MPCI and NAP for some producers. This is something new included in the current Farm Bill.**

### **Alturas NRCS Office**

Phone: 233-4137

Fax: 233-8869

Staff:

Matt Drechsel

Larry Flournoy

Tom Hill

Greg Bettman

Dot Merrill

### **Resource Conservation Districts serving Modoc County**

Central Modoc

Goose Lake

Surprise Valley

Vya

Pit

Lava Beds

## New Farm Bill - Deadlines for California Producers

<b>2008 Crop and CRP Acreage Reporting</b>	Sign-up Deadline: <b>August 15, 2008</b>
<b>2008 Disaster Assistance “Buy-In” Fee</b> For 2008 Crops, producers must submit a “buy-in” fee to assure disaster program eligibility.	Buy-InDeadline: <b>September 16, 2008</b>
<b>2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)</b>	Sign-up Deadline: <b>September 30, 2008</b>
<b>2009 NAP Applications</b> Extended deadline for crops with NAP deadlines prior to December 1.	Sign-up Deadline: <b>December 1, 2008</b>

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