



## Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA Newsletter

September 5, 2008

*Si necesita una explicacion in espanol por favor llamenos a la oficina*

### USDA Service Center

**Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA**  
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(831) 424-7289 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov

**Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**FSA County Committee**  
Vacant, LAA#1  
Frank LaMacchia LAA#2  
Ed Roth, LAA#3  
Sam (Bud) Mann, LAA#4

**Minority Advisors**  
Peter Navarro  
Dominic Muzzi

### **Buy-In Deadline for Supplemental Disaster Program Assistance**

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a “Buy-In” fee no later than September 16, 2008, as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill).

The buy-in fee is due no later than **Sept. 16, 2008**, 90 days after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008. 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 disaster programs.

### **2008 Direct & Countercyclical Program (DCP)**

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) for this fiscal year. Participants can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October. The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm’s base acreage *times* (x) the farm’s direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate. Contracts for DCP must be signed by September 30, 2008. Producers must file a crop acreage report and meet other eligibility requirements. Contact the office immediately for an appointment.

### **2008 County Committee Elections**

County Committees deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. The slate of nominees

for County Committee elections in Local Administrative Area 1 (North Monterey County) is complete. The nominees this year are: Janet Louie, flower grower and Dan Luksik, flower grower. Ballots will be mailed on November 3, 2008. Voters have until December 1, 2008 to return completed ballots to the county office. Newly elected members take office January 1, 2009. Voters must be of legal voting age and participate or cooperate in FSA programs or if not of legal voting age, conduct the entire farming operation and be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law. No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### **2009 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is 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 for which federal crop insurance is not available.

***The application deadline date for 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to December 1, 2008.***

In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

NAP coverage for 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1,875 total per producer for all counties.





In fond memory of Joyce Williams, Program Technician, assisting farmers and ranchers in Monterey County for over 37 years.

Joyce worked at FSA from 1955 to 1992 and recently passed away on July 4, 2008.

For photos and condolences, please go to the following website and search for Joyce Williams  
<http://www.mem.com>

Thanks for all you did for our farming community Joyce!

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 by the applicable deadline. **Note!** Different crops have different acreage reporting dates. **Note!** You must file a -0- acreage report for all crops covered by NAP that are not planted.

Timely file production records by the applicable deadline, which is the latest acreage reporting date in the subsequent crop year. (For example, 2008 strawberry growers must file all of their 2008 production records no later than July 15, 2009).

File a "Notice of Loss" timely on form CCC-576 within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail or other weather events.

Other eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to: (1) producers must have or share in the risk of producing the crop; (2) producers must be in compliance with conservation provisions (filing form AD-1026); (3) producers must file a farm operating plan and supporting documents, with proper signature authorities; (4) must have an inspection and/or appraisal of the damaged crop prior to removing the damaged crop; (5) Participants must, keep a record of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. **Note:** flower growers and other value loss crops must maintain and be able to provide a complete flower inventory in the county office at the beginning of each month in order to be eligible for NAP benefits; and (6) report any changes to your farming

operation, or gross income, as they occur.

### **2009 NAP Application Closing Dates (non-insurable crops)**

- 1/1/2008 **extended to 12/1/08** 2009 Citrus crops (Avocados, citrus crops, oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit)
- 8/1/2008 **extended to 12/1/08** Fall planted seed crops (grain crops that are not insurable)
- 9/1/2008 **extended to 12/1/08** Value Loss Crops (field flowers, aquaculture, christmas trees, etc.)
- 9/1/2008 **extended to 12/1/08** Forage crops mechanically harvested (HAY)
- 12/1/2008 Forage Crops Grazed (native pasture) and honey
- 12/15/2008 Fruit & nut tree crops, almonds, strawberries, apricots, cherries, asparagus, caneberries, grapes, kiwi, mint, nectarines, olives, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, walnuts, etc)
- 01/01/2009 2010 Crop Year -- Citrus- oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit, avocados
- 03/01/2009 2009 Annual spring planted crops (vegetables)

### **2009 Acreage Reporting Requirements and Reporting Dates**

Acreage reports are required in order to maintain your eligibility for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are required to be accurate and filed timely. All cropland on the farm must be reported if you are enrolled in the Direct & Countercyclical Program, have marketing assistance loans, or are requesting loan deficiency payment benefits. Zero planted acreage reports are required to be filed by all NAP participants on crops that have coverage which are not planted. Owners, operators or tenants who have acceptable signature authority on file in the

county office may file acreage reports.

### **2009 Acreage Reporting Dates**

Value Loss Crops	September 30, 2008
Flowers	September 30, 2008
Forage (pasture) grazed	December 15, 2008
Small seeded grains	April 30, 2009
All other crops + CRP	July 15, 2009

Late-filed acreage reports may be requested for a fee and if disposition of the crop by a physical inspection can be made. Fees are charged for time and mileage for late-filed acreage reports as well as measurement services.

### **2005/2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program.**

This program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to eligible crops in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up began October 15, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Losses from eligible natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Important Note:** Only producers who obtained federal crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35%. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. Participants must have been in compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions in the applicable crop year. A producer is ineligible to receive CDP payments if the FSA State Committee, FSA County Committee or an FSA Official determines that the producer committed, or attempted to commit fraud, or did not have an ownership share of the crop. To receive CDP benefits, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer was prevented from planting a crop; sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the expected production of the crop; or sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the value of value-loss crops. Production will be assigned for ineligible causes of loss, lack of

adequate production records, the participant carries out practices that generally results in lower yields than the established historic yields, the participant has a contract to receive a guaranteed payment for all or a portion of the crop; a crop is late-planted, non-harvested acreage was not timely appraised, or other appropriate causes as determined by the Deputy Administrator of FSA. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Please call the office for an appointment today.

### **Conservation Reserve Program**

It is the participant's responsibility to notify the county office if there is a change in the ownership of the CRP enrolled cropland. If your land is moved from an individual to a trust, this is considered an ownership change, and all requirements for CRP must be met by the new owner in order to succeed interest in the contract. Failure to notify the county office of changes may result in a termination of the contract and refund of CRP annual rental payments, with applicable interest and penalties. Please remember it is your responsibility to file annual acreage reports and update any other changes to farm records.

Managed grazing on CRP is allowed with the following conditions: (1) Participants may not graze CRP between April 1 and July 1, as this is the restricted primary nesting season date for Monterey County; (2) You must have an approved conservation plan with the required details of the prescribed grazing that you plan to do; (3) you must file other documents with FSA and receive approval prior to turning any livestock out on your CRP; (4) managed grazing cannot exceed 75 percent of the NRCS-approved stocking rate and meet specific residue requirements for compliance with CRP contract provisions.

### **Farm Loans**

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. 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. Contact a Farm Loan Officer for more information and current interest rates.



*The County Office will be closed in observance of the following holidays:*

*October 13, 2008  
Columbus Day*

*November 11, 2008  
Veterans Day*

*November 27, 2008  
Thanksgiving Day*

## New Farm Bill - Deadlines for Producers

<b>2008 Crop and CRP Acreage Reporting</b>	<b>Deadline Passed:</b> (August 15, 2008)
<b>2008 Disaster Assistance “Buy-In” Fee</b> For 2008 Crops, producers must submit a “buy-in” fee to assure disaster program eligibility.	Buy-In Deadline: <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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