



# NEWSLETTER



May-June 2011

## **Farm Service Agency California**

### **Riverside-San Diego**

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Indio, CA 92201  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

#### **Hours**

Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### **County Committee**

David Zeiders, LAA 1  
Harbhjan Singh, LAA 2  
Jack Seiler, LAA 3  
Raymond Lodge, LAA 4

#### **County Staff**

Desiree Houston  
County Executive Director  
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Mariana Montes  
Program Technician  
[Mariana.montes@ca.usda.gov](mailto:Mariana.montes@ca.usda.gov)

Next County Committee Meeting;  
June 29, 2011  
10:00 a.m.

## **2011 FSA County Committee Elections**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA COC members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

### **Election Period**

#### **• June 15, 2011**

COC nomination period begins.

#### **• Aug. 1, 2011**

COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

## **Who Can Hold Office**

To hold office as a COC member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

For 2011 we will be accepting nominations for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1, which encompasses the west-end of Riverside County; East to West: City of Banning to the Orange County border; North to South: San Bernardino County border to San Diego County Border.

### **Candidates must not have been:**

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

### **Nominations**

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf), or utilize the one incorporated in this newsletter.

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

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)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE**

4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

5. COUNTY

6. LAA

7. STATE

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:

*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 DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.
- ☐ I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:

*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.*

3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

3B. DATE

8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR

8B. DATE

☐ Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.

(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

**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**

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

**RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)**

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African-American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

**GENDER**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

**ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

**ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.**ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.**ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.**ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)**ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.****NOTE:**

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

## Acreage Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farms must be reported to receive benefits from the DCP program, Marketing Assistance loans and Loan Deficiency payments.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also report all their acreage, including grazing ground annually to maintain accurate records should losses occur and also to establish actual production history (APH) for those crops with production.

Acreage reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm or farms, whether idle or planted. The deadline to certify all crops other than small grains is **July 15, 2011**. Small grains should have been certified by April 30, 2011.

Late filed FSA-578's may be accepted and considered timely provided all the following are met;

1. The producer pays the cost of a farm visit and the costs of verification and determination of crop acreage.
2. Physical existence of the late filed crop or crop residue for the crop year being reported exists.
3. The crop's use can be verified.
4. The crop acreage for the specific crop can be determined.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States

Department of Agriculture(USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

### Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or

1-888-508-4429

### Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or

1-866-950-5547

### Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or

1-888-233-5506

## NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year 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 or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

## AGI and the IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with

the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs. If not signed into programs then the deadline to request a recon is June 1, 2011.



Riverside-San Diego County  
FSA Office  
82-901 Bliss Avenue  
Indio, CA 92201



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

## 2011 Direct & Counter Cyclical (DCP) Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is fast coming to a close. The deadline for signing is **June 1, 2011**. Contact the FSA Office to make an appointment to sign up if you have not already done so. Call the FSA Office at (760)347-3675.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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 program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



### Dates to Remember:

SURE 2009 Sign UP	July 29, 2011
Certification of Small Grains	April 30, 2011
DCP Sign Up	June 1, 2011
Certification of All Other Land Uses	July 15, 2011
Reconstitution Deadline for Program Farms	August 1, 2011
Reconstitution Deadline for Non-Program farms	June 1, 2011
MILC Signup	Continuing
NAP-Notice of Loss-Earlier of;	15 days After Occurrence of Natural Disaster Or Loss Becomes Apparent

FSAWEBSITE: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)