

June - July 2010

# Hollister Service Center

U.S. Department of  
Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
San Benito/Santa Clara  
2337 Technology Pkwy.,  
Suite A  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831.637.4360 x2 (phone)  
831.636.7643 (fax)

## Websites:

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

## Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

Vacant, LAA1  
Nenette Corotto, LAA2  
Ralph Santos, Jr., LAA3  
Joseph Gonzales, Advisor

## County Committee meets:

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

County Executive Director  
Jeannine Leyva

## Office Staff

Rebekah Reische, PT

NRCS is co-located in the  
Hollister Service Center,  
in Suite C. Dial extension  
3 to reach NRCS staff.



## Seeking Nominations for County Committee – San Benito County

Nomination forms are now available for the 2010 county committee election for LAA1 (area inside the city limits of Hollister).

We are seeking nominees who are willing to represent their fellow area farmers and serve a 3-year term on our 3-person committee overseeing the operation of the local FSA county office and making decisions on many of the program applications. **This is your chance to have a voice in how USDA's federal programs are administered here at a local level – FSA Counts on You!**

*If you farm in the Hollister area, can devote about 1 day per month for meetings, & want to ensure all kinds of farmers & all kinds of agriculture have a voice, then we need you!*

Almost anyone eligible to take part in FSA programs (farm owners, operators, tenants) is eligible to be a candidate & to vote. You can nominate yourself or others, and organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Your farming operation must be located within the Hollister city limits.

To make this unique local committee system work, it must represent ALL parts of local agriculture, so we encourage those who may not have traditionally participated in the past – particularly minority and female farmers – to take part.

**And don't miss out on voting:** please contact us to make sure you are listed on our eligible voter list, in the correct LAA, so that you will receive a ballot in November.

Please contact us for an election nomination form (FSA-669A) or go online at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

The form needs to be signed by the nominee and postmarked or received in our office **by August 2, 2010.**

**Elecciones de los Comites --** Nomine y elija a los granjeros de su eleccion. 2 de Agosto es ultimo dia para presentar los formularios con las nominaciones. Y no pierda la oportunidad de votar. Los propietarios, operadores, y arrendatarios pueden votar & ser candidatos. Verifique con esta oficina!

## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

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## Tree Assistance Program Signup

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) signup for orchardists and nursery tree growers began Monday, May 10, 2010, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

TAP provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible under prior legislation. Trees grown for pulp or timber are not eligible.

To be eligible producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees.

Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

For more information on the new TAP program, contact your county FSA office or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure> The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

Don't delay if you intend to apply for the 2008 SURE program! Don't forget to call for an appointment to certify all crops and the acreage of each field planted. The deadline for accepting crop year 2008 late-filed FSA-578's is **July 15, 2010**.

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## ***Crop Certification Deadline***

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office may be called as *crop reporting*, *acreage reporting*, or *crop certification*. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and the new crop disaster program Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The final reporting deadline for all spring-planted crops, permanent crops and native rangeland for grazing is **July 15, 2010**.

The deadline for reporting fall-planted crops was April 30; late-filed reports may be accepted but a fee applies.

*If you have not yet reported your 2010 plantings, call the office without delay to schedule an appointment by the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline!*

## ***Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)***

For each crop for which an acreage report is filed, the producer **MUST** report all production for that acreage not later than the immediately subsequent crop year acreage reporting date of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore the deadline to report 2009 production is July 15, 2010. Failure to report production by the production reporting deadline shall result in the disapproval of any CCC-576 associated with the year in which a notice of loss has been filed; shall have adverse implications for future year approved yield calculations and could result in future ineligibility for NAP assistance on this crop.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. The timely filing of a Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING NATIVE GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by NAP, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

The requirement for unit certification of acreage and production is independent of the occurrence of crop loss. Producers failing to timely certify unit acreage and production risk ineligibility for NAP assistance or reduced approved yields.

Continuous coverage letters for the 2011 crop year are to be sent out this summer. Please be sure and pay the coverage fee by the application closing date(s) listed in your letters. For more information about the NAP program please contact the office at (831) 637-4360 ext. 2.

## ***Farm Loan Programs***

The 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 up to a maximum of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,112,000. 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.

For details please contact Enoy Guevara at (831) 424-7377 for an appointment.

San Benito/Santa Clara Co. FSA  
2337 Technology Pkwy., Ste A  
Hollister, CA 95023



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Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nomination Period Begins
July 5	Independence Day-Office Closed
July 6	Tree Assistance Program Deadline
July 15	2008 SURE Late-Filed Acreage Reports Deadline
July 15	2010 Spring Seeded Crops, Permanent Crops, and Native Rangeland Deadline
July 15	NAP 2009 Production Reporting and Application for Payment Deadline
August 1	Reconstitution Deadline
August 2	County Committee Nomination Deadline
Continues	Sure Program Sign-up

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