

Farm Service Agency

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Hours:

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8:00 AM-4:30 PM

County Committee:

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Lonnie Twisselman

Advisor:

Jose Iniguez

County Executive**Director:**

Jennifer L. Anderson

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- SURE Signup Underway
- DCP Signup Underway
- ACRE Option
- NAP Deadlines
- Acreage Reporting & Deadlines
- County Committee Elections

San Luis Obispo County

FSA NEWS

May 2010

Newsletter2

SURE PROGRAM

Currently applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that were incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

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 are the conditions that 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
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses 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/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

2010 DCP Signups

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2010. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program 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 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment for a commodity are only issued if the effective price for a commodity is below the commodity's target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

The ACRE Program

The ACRE Option The ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. Participants in ACRE will forgo counter-cyclical payments. Also a farm's direct payment is reduced

by 20% and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers on non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster for crops which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.



At the time of application, producers must pay a nonrefundable service fee for the eligible NAP crop by the application closing date. **The cost for coverage is now \$250 per crop per producer with a \$750 cap per county, not to exceed \$1,875 per producer for all counties.**

NAP Crops	2011 Application Closing Dates
All Vegetable Crops	Aug. 1, 2010
Fall Planted Seed Crops	Aug. 1, 2010
Garbanzo Beans	Sept. 1, 2010
Value Loss Crops (ie. Cut Flowers)	Sept. 1, 2010
Grazing Acreage & Forage/Hay Crops	Dec. 1, 2010
Honey, Onions	Dec. 1, 2010
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Cane berries, Kiwis, Persimmons, Cherries, Mint, Olives, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Pistachios, Plums, Strawberries, and Walnuts	Dec. 15, 2010
2012 Citrus Crops (2-6 years old)	Jan. 1, 2011

Production must be submitted no later than July 15, 2010 for the 2009 crop year. If you have not previously submitted your 2009 crop production you must make an appointment with our office or you will not be eligible for benefits.

Notice of Loss: To be eligible for a NAP payment, producers must notify the FSA Office within 15 calendar days after a disaster has affected the NAP crop and complete a CCC-576 Notice of Loss Form.

Crop 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 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. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. **Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.**

Crop Reporting Deadlines

July 15, 2010	All crops other than small grains including; CRP land, hay crops and grass for grazing.
15 Calendar days before the onset of harvest or July 15, 2010	Crops covered by NAP only

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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.

LAA Up For Election This Year:

The area served by our County Committee is divided up into 3 Local Administrative Areas (LAAs). One member

on the committee represents each LAA and serves a 3-year term. This year, LAA #1 (Land located south of Highway 41 West and land west of Highway 101, including areas of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Los Osos and Nipomo) is up for election. Contact our office for exact boundaries.

County committees make local decisions on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

Election Period

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee 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.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed in the office that administers the producer's farm records. June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669_a_commiteelectform.pdf



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Visit our Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (805) 434-0398 Ext. 2.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

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