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USDA Service Center



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FSA NEWS

Santa Barbara-Ventura County

Address:
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Santa Maria, CA 93454

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805-928-9269 Ext.2

Fax:
805-928-9644

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee:
Fred Hayes (LAA#1)
Kerry Brooks (LAA#2)
Armando Gonzalez (LAA#3)
Daniel Naumann (LAA#4)
Paul Romero (LAA#5)

Minority Advisor:
Tom Thompson

County Executive Director:
Brenda Farias

Farm Program Staff:
Rebecca Sims
Alejandro Hernández
Daisy López

Farm Loan Staff:
Tarry Hetzel, FLT
Victor Manuel Hernandez, FLS
SCEP
Gary Troester, FLOT
Patricia A. Miller, FLO

Prohibited Discrimination

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.

ATTENCION: SI NECESITA ESTE BOLETIN DE NOTICIAS EN Español POR FAVOR HABLE AL CIGUIENTE NUMERO (805) 928-9269 EXT: 2

Strawberry Insurance



The Farm Service Agency is now the only agency offering Strawberry Insurance for the 2009 Crop year. The deadline to apply is **September 1, 2008** and the cost is \$250.00 per crop and not to exceed \$750 per county.

@Example 1:

Farmer Mark purchases insurance on strawberries (only) before the September 1st deadline. Farmer Mark now has to make a check payable to: Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for a total amount due of \$250. Please see the next page for other crop deadlines.

@Example 2:

Farmer Maria purchases insurance for strawberries, snap peas, and her native grass (grazing) by July 31. In the next page you will notice that farmer Maria had to come in by August 1st to meet the row crop deadline for her snap peas and she also insured her September 1st deadline crops while she was in the FSA office. Farmer Maria will have to pay a total of \$750.

*Please call to make an appointment before the application closing date.

NOTE: Remember to insure **all** your crops by their respective deadlines in order to participate in any future Crop Disaster Program.



NAP PRICE

@The Price for NAP Insurance has gone up, starting this 2009 crop year. The reason behind this is the new Farm Bill. The Food, conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008 increased the administrative service fees for NAP from \$100.00 to \$250 per crop, from \$300 to \$750 per county, and from \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

@If you have already payed your NAP fee for this year and you did it before May 22nd your fee will not go up... BUT if you paid it after May 22nd the fee increase will apply to you as well.

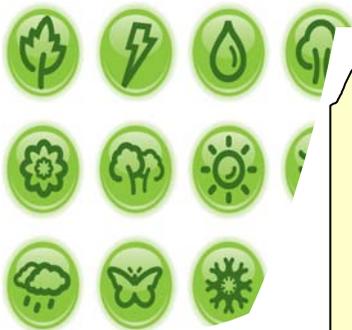
@We will be sending out further information on when and how the other \$150 can be payed.

Thank you for your patience as we go through these changes.



Crop Disaster Program

All crops are eligible. However, producers must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceed 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb.28, 2007) as a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits.



**Non Insured
Crop Disaster
Assistance
Program**

The program 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 Insurance. NAP is *limited* to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which catastrophic insurance is not available and is produced for food and fiber.

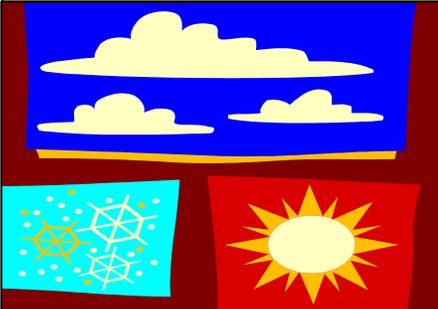
How to apply for NAP insurance:

- Call to make an appointment before application closing date.
- Cost is **\$250.00** per crop not to exceed **\$750.00** per county.
- Bring a check or money order payable to: Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).
- Bring your social security number and/or tax id numbers, mailing address and current phone number.
- We need to know what crops you intend to insure.
- Make sure you have the above documents and information by the application closing date.



NOTE: The Food, conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008 increased the administrative service fees for NAP from \$100.00 to \$250 per crop, from \$300 to \$750 per county, and from \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties. See page 1 for more information.

IMPORTANT:
In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). **The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.**



An eligible cause of loss is:
Damaging weather such as drought, hail, freeze, excessive moisture or any combination thereof.
A condition related to weather or adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, flood, insect infestation, or any combination thereof.
NOTE: "Normal" heat, wind freeze or precipitation as documented by weather data is not an eligible cause of loss.
NOTE: NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50% of the expected production, based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

NAP CROP PLANTING WINDOW	APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
Avocados – 5 year old trees or less – reductions apply	January 1, 2009 For 2010 Crop Year
Citrus: Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Tangelos, Grapefruit - 5 years old or less – reductions apply	January 1, 2009 For 2010 Crop Year
All other annuals	March 1, 2008
Row Crops (all vegetable crops)	
Window 1 – September 1 and December 31	August 1, 2008
Window 2 – January 1 and April 30	August 1, 2008
Window 3 - May 1 and August 31	August 1, 2008
Fall planted Seed Crops	August 1, 2008
Forage Crops	September 1, 2008
Strawberries	September 1, 2008
Value loss and controlled environmental crops, including cut flowers	September 1, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2008
Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Cranberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain.	December 15, 2008





As a part of the legislation passed by Congress in May 2007, a multi-program package to help farmers who have suffered losses over the past three years is available.

Specific details are available at:

www.fsa.usda.gov.

NOTICE: 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP

Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All* of your crops on *all* of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

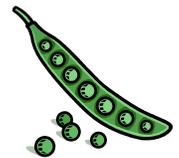
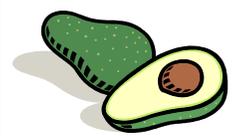
Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- ❶ **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- ❷ **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- ❸ **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- ❹ **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.



Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.
Contact your FSA Office for more information.

Jokes:

- 1: What did the farmer call the cow that would not give him any milk?
- 2: How do you take a pig to the hospital?
- 3: How did the farmer find his lost cow?

IMPORTANT DATES

@The Santa Barbara Ventura County Farm Service Agency is announcing critical program deadlines for your calendar. Be sure to contact your local office NOW at 805-928-9269 Ext:2 for an appointment or more information.

August 1	County Committee Nomination Deadline
August 1	Insurance Application Closing Date for Row Crops (all vegetable crops)
August 15	2008 Acreage Reports Deadline
September 1	Insurance Application Closing Date for Forage Crops & Strawberries
September 16	Disaster Eligibility Buy-In Deadline for 2008
Continues	CDP 2005-2007 Sign Ups
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program



Emergency Farm Loans Available

The Secretary of Agriculture has declared major weather related disasters in the State of California, covering damages and losses for 18 Primary Counties and 29 Contiguous Counties.

Date of Declaration	Designation Code	Disaster Description	Final Date to Apply
Jan 4, 2008	M1731	Wildfires/Flooding	Sep. 4, 2008
Mar 5, 2008	S2666	High Winds	Nov. 05, 2008

To have qualifying losses, applicants must have suffered a severe physical or production loss directly related to the above cited causes. For more information contact the FSA Farm Loan team at (805) 928-9269 ext. 2.

FSA Counts on You!

"This year we hope you'll consider nominating a farmer or rancher you know will make a real difference in his or her community."

Brenda Farias, CED



@Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008.

@Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate.

@The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections.

@Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3, and the deadline to return ballots is Dec. 1