



**California
Santa Barbara-Ventura
County FSA Office**

March 2011

920 East Stowell Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Ph: (805) 928-9269 Ex.2
Fax: (805) 928-9644

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

Staff:
County Executive Director
Brenda Farias
Program Technicians
Alex Hernandez
Daisy Lopez
Farm Loan Manager
Melanie Fry
Farm Loan Technician
Tarry Hetzel
Farm Loan Officer
Gary Troester
Farm Loan Officer Trainee
Victor Manuel Hernandez

Ventura Office Hours:
1ST & 3RD Wed. of Every Month
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

USDA/RCD Building
3380 Somis Rd,
Somis, CA 93066

Note: Make an appointment.
We will cancel office hours if
we don't have any scheduled
appointments.

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

SURE – 2009 and Later

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. **SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011. Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.**

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. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop 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 are required to 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
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer 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.

Note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations; SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

Disaster Programs / Risk Management
FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement. Producers, who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.



Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

Compensation for Claims of discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are a female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the farmer and Rancher center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit:

www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claim process.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Tom Thompson! Tom was elected to represent farmers from the eastern region of Santa Barbara County.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election

The committee members held their organizational meeting in February and voted to have Daniel A Nauman as the county committee chairman and Kerry Brooks as the vice-chairman.

NAP Enrollment

To maintain eligibility for several FSA disaster assistance programs, producers must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and applicable service fees must be paid by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Santa Barbara/Ventura County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: (805)928-9269 ext.2.

Producers must obtain NAP or crop insurance coverage on all crops in order to remain eligible for the agency’s Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops. LFP requires coverage only on grazed acres.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

Livestock Programs

FSA administers several programs that may be available to assist livestock producers dealing with problems caused by winter weather. To apply for assistance, producers need to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of these winter storms. In situations where additional transport costs are being incurred to feed livestock, producers should document these additional costs.

Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). For livestock death losses to be eligible under LIP, producers must file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer.

Contact us for additional information.

2012 NAP Application Closing Date	
Row Crops	08/01/2011
Strawberries	09/01/2011
Value loss and controlled environmental crops...includes cut flowers	09/01/2011
Forage seed crops	09/01/2011
Forage Crops, Intended Use of FG, Hay (Mechanically Harvested)	12/1/2011
Forage Crops, Intended Use of GZ, Grazing	
Honey	12/1/2011
Asparagus & Artichokes	12/15/2011
Fruit-Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Cane Berries, Grapes, Kiwi, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates	12/15/2011
Apples	1/31/2012

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have 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 report that IRS sends to USDA.

This is to ensure 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 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 FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

Emergency Loans

Pursuant to the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs' designation of a quarantine emergency in the State of California on November 1, 2010, Kern County and the contiguous Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are eligible for emergency farm loans because of production losses based on damages and losses caused by the Melon Fruit Fly quarantine, which began August 19, 2010.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications under this authorization expires on July 9, 2011

Operating Loan Applications

Farmers that plan to apply for annual operating loan assistance are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Farmers should contact their local FSA office for information.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

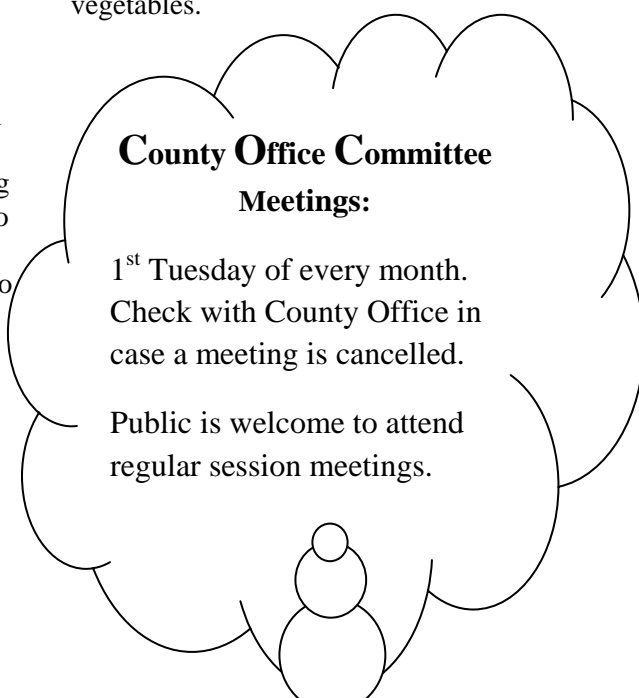
Farm Storage Facility Loan

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial payment will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final payment will be made when construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.



County Office Committee Meetings:

1st Tuesday of every month.
Check with County Office in case a meeting is cancelled.
Public is welcome to attend regular session meetings.

Honey Loans

Honey loans are a type of marketing assistance loan. They are currently available until March 31, 2011. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.69 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time.

To be eligible, the producer must produce honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extract the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year. Producers must also maintain continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan, and be responsible for the financial risk of the operation. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey.

The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey,

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed bank accounts or institutions contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

For more information about programs please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov .



920 E. Stowell Road
 Santa Maria, California 934

Hay Net – Your No-Cost Online Buying and Selling Market

Hay Net is a free, online hay locator service on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>. Producers who want to buy or sell hay can post their ads at no charge to make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current extreme winter conditions. Individual ads can be posted by producers after completing a simple online registration form.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2011

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating- Direct	2.750%
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loan- Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership- Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

Dates To Remember

Mar 31	Honey Loans Close
May 31	Memorial Day - Service Center Closed
Jul 4	Holiday- Service Center Closed
Jul 15	2011 - Acreage reporting deadline
Jul 29	2009 SURE sign up deadline
Aug 1	2012 NAP Insurance (row crops) deadline
Sep 1	Strawberry insurance deadline

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