



# NEWSLETTER



## March 2012 Shasta/Trinity Co.

### Shasta/Trinity Farm Service Agency

3644 Avtech Parkway,  
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Redding, CA 96002

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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

Mary Rickert-Chairman  
Steve Tetrick-Vice Chair  
Ernie Morfin-Member  
Jerry Fulton-Member  
Rae Anne Lowry-Member

### County Executive Director

Darci Cullers

### FSA Staff

Linda Walton, PT

### Farm Loan Manager

Katherine Lewis

### Farm Loan Staff

Sandy Davidson, FLO

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES

#### District

#### Conservationist

Robert Bailey

#### Soil/Forestry

#### Conservationist

Mindy Graves

#### Range Conservationist

Jena Brazil

#### Wildlife Biologists

Kate Giorgi  
Alicia Young

## DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment opened on Jan. 23, 2012 and **closes on June 1, 2012**. Call now for an appointment at the local office. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office including: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities) and changes in crop shares arrangements. **Note:** All changes must be made by Sept. 30, 2012.

## New Office Management

Joe Gassaway, County Executive Director (CED) of the Shasta/Trinity office, retired from the USDA Farm Service Agency on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Due to nationwide Government cuts in budget and staffing levels, the CED position will not be back filled. The Shasta/Trinity FSA office will be managed by the current CED of the Tehama County FSA office, Darci Cullers. Both offices will be under Shared Management with the CED traveling between both offices throughout the work week.

## Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Rae Anne Lowry being re-elected to represent farmers and ranchers from southern Trinity County on the County Committee. Rae Anne was elected to her 2nd

consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

## NO MORE PAPER NEWSLETTERS!!

Farm Service Agency will be sending out electronic newsletters and bulletins to producers, instead of the mailed versions. The FSA offices are adopting an electronic delivery option called GovDelivery. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to: [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe) or contact your local FSA office and submit your email address to be added to the GovDelivery system.

A small amount of printed Newsletters will be available at the Shasta/Trinity FSA office for pick up for any producers that cannot, or choose not to participate in GovDelivery.

**Please see page 4 for more information  
about signing up for GovDelivery.**

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continues through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

### Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

### Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provisions

For 2012, there are now four qualifying levels for AGI provisions as follows:

1) **\$500,000 Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI nonfarm income that exceeds, \$500,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for all commodity program payments and benefits.

2) **\$750,000 Farm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI farm income that exceeds \$750,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for DCP direct payments only.

3) **\$1,000,000 Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI nonfarm income that exceeds \$1,000,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for all conservation program benefits unless at least 66.66% of total AGI is average adjusted gross farm income.

4) **\$1,000,000 Total Farm and Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI farm and nonfarm income that exceeds \$1,000,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for 2012 direct payments under DCP.

Form CCC-931 must be completed to authorize the AGI certification process in conjunction with the IRS. The average AGI is based on the average adjusted gross income for the three taxable years preceding the most immediate complete taxable year. For the 2012 program year, the three taxable years for AGI would include 2008, 2009 and 2010.

### Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

### 1099-G/ Taxable Farm Income

Producers who have received FSA payments should have received a CCC-1099-G, a report to the IRS about FSA payments made

## 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 female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



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Department of  
Agriculture

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to producers the previous calendar year. The report is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Contact your local FSA office for a copy of this report.

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

## Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice

because of his or her identity as members of a group.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## New CRP Sign-up Available

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), General sign-up 43, will be from **March 12-April 6, 2012.**

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat. FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years, and accepted contracts for CRP 43 will begin October 1, 2012.

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to April 6, 2012. Please check with FSA office for exceptions.

Land must be cropland that is planted, or considered planted, to an ag commodity 4 of the 6 crop years from 2002 to 2007, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no restrictions, easements, or other legal bindings).

Please see your local FSA office for more information.

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. **NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.**

Contact your FSA County Office for deadlines and more information.

Shasta/Trinity County  
FSA Office  
3644 Avtech Parkway, #D  
Redding, CA 96002-9241



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## How to Sign Up for GovDelivery – Free Service / Quicker Information

Producers, owners and others interested in keeping up to date with important FSA program deadlines and information are strongly encouraged to sign up for GovDelivery. This new instant communication system allows newsletters, deadline reminders and bulletins to be sent right to your email address. Here are the simple steps to sign up.

- 1) To subscribe to updates, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)
- 2) On the right side of the page under STAY CONNECTED, enter your email address in the box SIGN UP FOR UPDATES.
- 3) Click GO.
- 4) Under SUBSCRIPTION TOPICS, click the plus symbol (+) next to UPDATES BY STATE AND COUNTY.
- 5) Click the plus symbol (+) next to **CALIFORNIA**.
- 6) Click the check box next to “**CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES.**”
- 7) Click the check box next to the COUNTY OR COUNTIES you wish to subscribe to.
- 8) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click SUBMIT. A subscription notification will be sent to your email address.
- 9) If you do not receive an email notification, check your junk mail folder and mark the email as “not junk” to ensure proper delivery of future emails.

Dates to Remember	
March 30	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Energy Initiative Program, second round (Contact NRCS office)
April 6	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 43 sign-up
April 30	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Fall Seeded Crop Certification
May 28	Office Closed: Memorial Day
June 1	<b>DEADLINE:</b> 2012 DCP/ACRE sign-up
June 1	<b>DEADLINE:</b> 2010 SURE sign-up
June 1	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Energy Initiative Program, third round (Contact NRCS office)
July 15	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Spring Seeded Crop Certification