



# YOLO COUNTY FSA NEWS



Volume 2

July 2008

**Yolo County FSA**

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Woodland, CA 95695  
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**Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**County Committee:**

Tom Slater, Chairperson  
Randy Timothy, Vice Chair  
Bob Paschoal, Member  
Rudy Lucero, Jr., Advisor  
Marlene Schuler, Advisor

**County Executive**

**Director:**

Marianne A. Morton

**County Office Staff:**

Nathan Bohl  
Beth Collier  
Dee DeLuca  
Caroline Walgenbach



This office will be closed  
September 1st in  
observance of Labor Day

**2008 DISASTER  
PROGRAMS  
REQUIRE CROP  
INSURANCE OR NAP**

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) includes funding for disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage and other crops due to adverse weather. These programs require that **ALL** crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting on **ALL** of your farms to have federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

Producers who don't meet these criteria have been given an opportunity to meet eligibility for 2008 disaster programs by paying a \$100/crop insurance and/or \$100/crop NAP "buy-in" fees for any 2008 crops that are not already covered. Note that you will not receive crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits for 2008.

The "buy-in" fees **must be paid by September 16, 2008** at your local FSA Office if you wish to apply for 2008 benefits through the following programs:

- **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%;
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought and losses due to wildfire on public lands;
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%;
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Provides emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to weather-related disasters not adequately covered by any

other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

The only disaster program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**, which compensates producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to a weather-related disaster.

### **WELCOME, BETH!**

Beth Collier previously worked in the Placer/Nevada/El Dorado and Sacramento/Amador FSA Offices. Beth is in charge of Payment Limitation and Price Support Programs.

### **SIGN UP UNDERWAY FOR THE 2008 DCP**

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any Farm Service Agency County Office or online.

DCP payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute, regardless of market prices.

Eligible producers may request an advance payment of 22% of the annual direct payment for each commodity associated with

the farm. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

Counter-Cyclical payments vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

### **2005-2007 CDP SIGNUP**

Signup for production and quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) continues.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered production and/or quality losses to their 2005-2007 crops due to natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of the three years; however, they may apply for benefits for multiple crop losses occurring in the same crop year.

The total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, cannot exceed 95% of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.



### **FSA COC NOMINATION DEADLINE**

County Committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA County Committee members make decisions on disaster, conservation, emergency, commodity price support and loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers. Members serve three-year terms. This year's election will be held for LAA-3 (the Yolo County area south of I-5 and east of CR 102).

Producers are encouraged to nominate eligible candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A, which is available at FSA County Offices or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the Yolo FSA County Office by close of business on August 1, 2008.

Ballots, which will be mailed to producers beginning November 3, must be postmarked or received in the County Office by December 1, 2008.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

**2008 CROP  
CERTIFICATION  
DEADLINE EXTENDED**

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

The final crop reporting date for most 2008 crops has been extended to August 15, 2008. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

**FSA FARM LOANS**

The 2008 Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased to \$300,000.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender.

FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies; to construct buildings; or to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan term for the FO down payment program has been extended to 20 years. Interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5%, depending on the present FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up to 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing 5%.

**MANAGED HAYING  
AND GRAZING ON CRP  
ACREAGE**

The State Technical Committee approved the following periods for managed haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage as recommended by the Yolo County FSA Committee (COC):

Managed Haying Period:

- January 1 - March 31

Managed Grazing Periods:  
Producers may elect **either:**

- October 1- November 29 (60-day) **and**
- January 31-March 31 (60-day)

**Or:**

- December 1-March 30 (120-day)

CRP participants approved for managed haying or grazing shall: 1) contact

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to obtain a modified conservation plan that includes managed haying or grazing; 2) receive written notification from the COC that managed haying or grazing is authorized **before** livestock are placed on CRP acreage; 3) be assessed a payment reduction of the number of acres actually hayed or grazed x the CRP per acre annual rental payment x 25%; 4) re-establish the cover, at their own expense, if the cover fails as a result of managed haying or grazing; 5) hay or graze only during the above periods and not exceed the applicable consecutive days; 6) not hay or graze the same acreage more often than 1 out of every 3 years; and 7) report the number of acres actually hayed or grazed. Eligible livestock producers who are renting or subleasing eligible CRP acreage may not sublease the CRP acreage.

**FARM  
RECONSTITUTIONS**

To be effective for 2008, farm combinations and divisions must be requested by August 1, 2008. If 2008 DCP payments have been issued, all payments must be refunded before the reconstitution can be processed. Resulting farms must be enrolled by September 30, 2008.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

7/18/2008	2005, 2006 and 2007 LCP and LIP application deadline
8/01/2008	NAP ACD 2009 fall-planted seed & multi-planting crops Final date to request a 2008 farm reconstitution Deadline to submit a nomination for LAA-3 COC election
8/15/2008	2008 spring-seeded acreage reporting deadline
9/01/2008	NAP ACD – 2009 fall-planted garbanzo beans NAP ACD – 2009 forage (mechanically harvested) NAP ACD – value loss and controlled environment crops Labor Day – office closed
9/16/2008	Deadline to pay 2008 NAP/CAT buy-in fees
9/30/2008	Final date to submit 2008 CCC-509 signatures
10/01/2008	NAP ACD – 2009 fall-planted garlic 2009 DCP sign up begins

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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