



## Service Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Fresno County FSA Office**  
4625 W Jennifer Street  
Suite 109  
Fresno, CA 93722  
559-276-7494 (phone)  
559-276-1791 (fax)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Loan Manager**  
Tom Roberts, FLM

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Phoua Yang, P.T.

**Farm Program Staff**  
Mildred Jones, P.T.  
Bee Payne, P.T.  
Christy Villas, P.T.  
Joanne Gomez, P.T.  
Wanda Medina P.T.  
Chris San Nicolas, P.T.  
Robert Martinez, P.T.  
Nangpay Vang, P.T.  
Jon Klassen, P.T.  
Annie Lee, P.T.  
Sean Gallaher, P.T.  
Brianna Wilkenson  
CSUF Intern

**County Committee**  
Tad Kozuki, Chairman  
Jean Errotabere, Vice Chairman  
Keith Freitas, member

**Committee Advisors**  
Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka  
Will Scott Jr.

COUNTY COMMITTEE  
MEETS ON THE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH  
MONTH

**Executive Director**  
Russ L. Friend



Farm Service Agency

# FSA UPDATES

November  
2006

## 2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLIC PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP

Sign-up deadline for 2007 DCP is June 1, 2007. Farms enrolled after the June 1, 2007 deadline are subject to a \$100 per-farm late fee. Producers involved with this program must sign-up every year to receive program benefits.

When you sign the DCP contract, form CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.



## MILCX RATES



USDA announced the following fiscal year 2007 MILCX rates:

October - \$0.4318/CWT  
November - \$0.4386/CWT

Dairy producers who have a MILCX contract are reminded that if you wish to change the start month on your contract you must do so prior to 15 days before the beginning of the month you wish to start on. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

## ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIREMENTS

The 2002-2007 Farm Bill included average adjusted gross income as a payment eligibility requirement. Any individual or entity requesting certain 2003 through 2007 program payments will be subject to this provision. Any individual or entity that is determined to have an average adjusted gross income, as defined, that is less than 75% from farming, ranching or forestry operation and that exceeds \$2.5 million will be ineligible for any covered benefit during the applicable year. Producers are required to file form CCC-526 certifying that they meet the income requirements.



### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Eligible producers who live east of Highway 99 will vote for a new County Committee person this month. County Committee Chairman Tad Kozuki has served this area well for the last 9 years, but has reached term limits. Fresno FSA thanks Tad for his dedication and service to Fresno County agriculture producers.

**The candidates for Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA # 3) which includes all producers who live east of Highway 99 are: Dale Arthur, Carl Buxman, George Flagler, Chalee Xiong, Cindy Xiong and Bee Yang.** Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers beginning November 3, 2006. Returned Ballots must be received by the Fresno FSA office by December 4, 2006. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot by mail may vote at the Fresno FSA office prior to close of business on December 5, 2006, during regular business hours.

All candidates were given an opportunity to answer the following 4 questions for publication in this newsletter.

- How long have you been farming?
- What crop did you produce in 2006?
- What is the biggest challenge facing Fresno County Agriculture?
- Why do you wish to serve on the FSA County Committee?

*Candidates George Flagler, Cindy Xiong and Bee Yang did not return the questionnaire in time for publication in this newsletter.*

The following statements were provided by the candidates and is not an endorsement of any candidate by FSA.



### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

**Dale Arthur** has been in cow/calf cattle ranching since 1982. His 2006 crop was calves from the cow/calf operation. He believes the biggest challenge facing Fresno County agriculture is the rising cost of production seen in the cost of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs while the prices received by farmers and ranchers are not rising in a corresponding manner, shrinking their profit margins and causing them to become larger to stay in business or seek outside income. He wants to serve on the County Committee to become more involved in the agricultural industry and help in the implementation of FSA programs.

**Carl Buxman** has been farming for 30 years. He grew peaches, plums nectarines, apricots, apples, kiwi, persimmons, grapes and oranges in 2006. He believes the biggest challenge facing Fresno County agriculture is continuing labor issues, securing additional water for irrigation and receiving higher returns for crops to offset increased costs. He wants to serve on the County Committee because he is willing to commit the time and effort to be an effective committee member to represent all aspects of the farm community in the Central Valley.

**Chalee Xiong** has been farming for 6 years. He grew green beans in 2006. He believes the biggest challenge facing Fresno County agriculture is that many small farmers do not know FSA has programs to assist them financially. He wants to serve on the County Committee because he wants decisions made regarding the financial state of farmers to be equitable and fair.

### FSA SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.

**THE NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

NAP coverage is similar to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock. NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2007, if the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The service fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum fee.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

Producers with 2006 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, packing house packing records, cash sale records, farmer's market sales records, etc. File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss is apparent.

<b>Crop year 2007</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>
Multi Planting - Green Beans	8/1/2006
All other annuals	3/1/2007
Almonds, Apples, Asparagus, Avocados, Caneberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Walnuts	12/15/2006
Onions, Honey	12/1/2006
Fall planted Seed Crops	8/1/2006
Forage Crops	9/1/2006
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops.	9/1/2006

**EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE**

On September 11, 2006 the Secretary of Agriculture declared 16 California counties eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by record-setting heat wave that occurred from July 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006. Fresno County producers who suffered at least a 30% loss of normal production directly related to this event may be eligible for emergency loans. Applications must be filed by May 7, 2007. Please contact Loan Manager Tom Roberts for an appointment.

**EQIP SIGN UP IN PROGRESS**

NRCS is accepting applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through December 1, 2006. During FY 2006, the Fresno County NRCS obligated \$2.8 million in EQIP cost-share funds for a variety of conservation projects, and is expected to receive approximately the same amount for FY 2007. Individuals who wish to participate in the EQIP program must meet all eligibility requirements. Applicants also need to submit cost-shared estimates for all proposed cost-shared conservation practices, along with design copies for proposed structural practices. Agricultural landowners and operators interested in participating in EQIP can apply at their local USDA-NRCS service center. Call a soil conservationist for up-to-date information or an appointment. The Fresno NRCS office is located at 4625 W. Jennifer Ave., Suite 125. Fresno, CA 93722. The phone is 559-276-7494 ext. 3.

**FSA STAFF MEMBERS RETIRE AND RELOCATE**

5 year FSA employee Marie Percy has retired from Fresno FSA. Marie's warm smile and friendly personality made her a favorite with producers visiting the Fresno FSA office. Marie plans on spending more time with her children and grandchildren, as well as keeping husband Jimmy on track.

4 year FSA employee Jon Klassen has joined the staff at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. During his tenure with FSA, Jon was instrumental in keeping payments flowing for LDPs and Commodity Loans. Fresno FSA wishes both Marie and Jon continued success.

Fresno County Farm Service Agency  
 4625 W Jennifer Street  
 Suite 109  
 Fresno, CA 93722-6424

**Important information enclosed about USDA farm programs.**

<b>Important Dates and Deadlines</b>	
December 4, 2006	Final date to return County Committee Election Ballots
Various Dates	NAP application deadlines. See page 3 for details
NAP Crop Damage Report	No later than 15 days from date of damaging weather occurrence
April 30, 2007	Fall seeded crop certification due
<b>FSA Office Closures</b>	
November 10, 2006 November 23, 2006 December 25, 2006 January 1, 2007	Veterans Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day New Years Day

**DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYMENTS IS MANDATORY**

As of January 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. **For those already signed up, it is extremely important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution.** If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

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