



Kern County FSA News

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Crop Disaster Program Signup

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup for quantity losses is scheduled to begin October 15, 2007.** USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

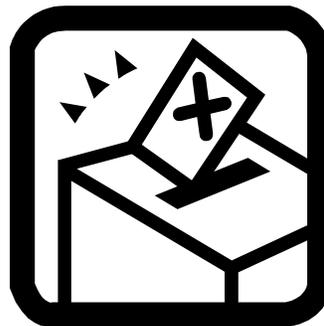
Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 can and should apply for benefits or every year and will be paid the highest dollar amount. The calculation is complex, prices for insurable crops are not the same between all three years, eligibility may not be the same for all three years. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of

35 percent to be eligible for CDP. For more information on this, or to make an appointment to sign up contact the Kern County Farm Service Agency office.

Livestock Disaster Programs

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Check with the Kern county office for details, or to make an appointment to sign up.



County Committee Election

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on

November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007.

Final Payments for 2007 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their en-tire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sep. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

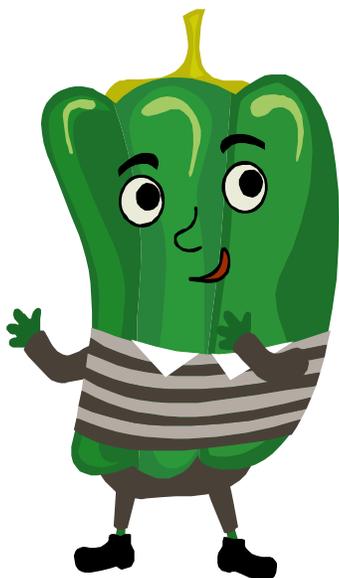
The NAP program was designed to reduce financial losses which occur when natural disaster causes a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic insurance.

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.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Producers are responsible to file a "Notice of Loss" within **15** days of: a) occurrence of any natural disaster condition; b) final planting date if you are prevented from planting because of natural disaster; c) the date of damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you. If Notice of Loss is not filed timely, it could result in benefits being denied. **VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

If you have filed an application for any NAP crops you are required to submit production and certify those crops annually by July 15th. Failure to do so could result in a zero being averaged into your actual production history. This could be very detrimental as the averaged actual production history is used for payment purposes, should you qualify for a loss in a given year. Continuity is essential. If you have concerns please call the FSA office to make sure the required deadline is met.



2008 Application Closing Dates

All other annuals	3/1/2008
Apples	1/31/2008
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Avocados, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach, Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/2007
Fall Planted Garlic	10/1/2007
Onions, Honey	12/1/2007
Fall Planted Seed Crops	9/1/2007
Forage Crops/Permanent Pasture	9/1/2007
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/2007
2009 Crop Year Citrus Crops:	
Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos	1/1/2008

California Small Farm Conference

February 24-26, 2006 • Visalia, CA

Workshops for new farmers, Hmong and Spanish speaking farmers, farmers market managers, and experienced farmers.

--Scholarships Available--

To learn more call (888) 712-4188 or www.californiafarmconference.com

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc

- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
 - Promissory note
 - Assignment of payment
 - Joint payment authorization
 - NAP actual production history and approved yield record
 - Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
 - Financing statement
 - UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general

partnership and bind all members

- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA Office.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Signups Now Underway

Conservation cost share applications for the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are being accepted now through November 2, 2007, at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices throughout California. The program provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers interested in making voluntary improvements to natural resources on land they own or manage.

"The EQIP program has been a huge help for California's agricultural producers who are trying to balance their desire to do the right thing for the environment with the reality of fiscal constraints," says NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton. "EQIP can supply a critical link between having the desire to do more for water, air, and wildlife, and being able to do more for these resources." Burton also stresses the importance of having a conservation plan when applying for EQIP. "A conservation plan—which NRCS staff can assist with—helps growers assess the needs of the resources and schedule the best remedies on a

timetable which makes sense for the landowner and for the land."

The EQIP program is a broad-ranging program which shares the cost related to improvements in soil, water, air, range, and wildlife habitat on farms and ranches. It can help in implementing water conservation, integrated pest management, nutrient management, air quality improvements, rangeland management, manure management, and more. Assistance can be in the form of structures and conservation "hardware" such as irrigation or manure management facilities as well as incentives payments for proper management to achieve environmental benefits. In 2007, California approved 1190 EQIP contracts on over 447,000 acres for almost \$48 million.

Applications are ranked based on scores reflecting their environmental benefit to national, statewide, and locally identified resource priorities as well as a cost efficiency calculation. California statewide priorities for EQIP funding in 2008, include air quality, wildlife habitat, and water quality needs related to confined animal feeding operations. A more detailed explanation of local goals and ranking processes can be found at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

All eligibility forms must be submitted or updated before applications can be ranked or approved. Required forms may also include CPA-1202, appendix, and power of attorney if applicable. HEL-wetland certifications and others listed on the site referenced above. Applicants are encouraged to begin the process early to avoid unforeseen delays and assure their application can be considered for funding for this year.

FSA's 2007 National Compliance & Spot Check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers.

The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. Statistical samples of FSA employees, County Committee (COC), and State Committee (STC), members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber, and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

Cotton Producers Polled on Referendum

Beginning in early September and continuing through November 30, 2007, cotton producers can request a referendum on whether to continue the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

The 1991 amendments instituted non-refundable assessments on all U.S. Upland cotton and authorized the collection of assessments on imported cotton and imported cotton textiles.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Kern County FSA
5000 California Avenue #100
Bakersfield CA 93309-0711

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED



Dates to Remember:

2008 EQIP Applications Deadline	November 2, 2007
2008 County Committee Ballots Mailed to Voters	November 2, 2007
2007 Holiday – Office Closed	November 12, 2007
2007 Holiday – Office Closed	November 22, 2007
2008 Last Day to Return COC Ballots	December 3, 2007
2007 Holiday – Office Closed	December 25, 2007
NAP Application Closing Dates	See Chart Inside
NAP-Notice of Loss	Within 15 days of Natural Disaster Or Loss Becomes Apparent

This implemented the 1966 Cotton Research and Promotion Act which required USDA to review and determine whether a referendum on continuing these amendments was needed. USDA published a decision in the March 6, 2007, in the Federal Register, stating that a referendum was unnecessary. Such a decision requires an opportunity for cotton producers and importers to request a referendum.

FSAWEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To hold a referendum, 10 percent of the cotton producers who voted in the last referendum, or 4,622 producers, would have to request a referendum. No more than 20 percent of all requests can come from one state or from importers.

Producers should make requests in the FSA service center that services the county where the producer owns or rents land. If the producer owns or rents land in more than one county, the producer should make requests to their "control" FSA service center. No action is necessary if a referendum is not desired.