

November 2007

FSA Program Updates



**Kings County
USDA Service Center**

Kings County FSA
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Hanford, CA 93230
559-585-8732 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Craig Pedersen
John L Martins
Peter Rietkerk
Michael Miya -Advisor

County Director

Kathy Sargent

Staff

Joan Avila
Winifred Brogan
Nathan Olson
Lillian Sanchez
Julie Thomas



DISASTER LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

Signup is underway for the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program. No ending date has been announced for the signup period.



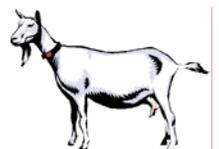
The **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. This includes freeze in January 2007. Eligible grazing types of feed are non-irrigated pasture/native grasses. Pasture must have been owned or leased on a cash or fixed amount basis to be eligible. Eligible livestock under that announcement are: adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, catfish and other livestock the Secretary may designate.

The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** provides benefits for livestock losses that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 which were a direct result of a declared disaster. Kings County had a disaster declared due to excessive heat. The disaster period ran from July 1, 2006 thru July 31, 2006. Livestock which died within 60 days of the end of that disaster period may be included. Only losses directly related to excessive heat may be included. Incidental losses should not be included. Drought is not an eligible cause of loss under this program. To be eligible under LIP, the livestock must have been owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock died and have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day the livestock died. Eligible livestock include adult/non-adult beef cattle, adult/non-beef dairy cattle, adult/non-adult beefalo or buffalo, sheep, goats, swine, equine animals, deer, catfish, crawfish, poultry and reindeer. Livestock maintained for reasons other than commercial use are not eligible. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is available to cover livestock deaths caused by a natural disaster or related condition that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (up to February 28, 2007), including losses due to excessive heat that occurred in July 2006.



PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

In order to better serve you, please call (559) 585-8732 for an appointment prior to coming to the office. Please bring in documents used to support inventory numbers and deaths.



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Signup underway

The Kings County Farm Service Agency office is accepting applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops 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. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. No ending date has been announced for the signup.

In order for us to provide better customer service to you, please call us for an appointment @ (559) 585-8732 Ext # 2 prior to coming into the office.

2007 FARM COMPLIANCE SPOT CHECKS

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 county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling

method. A statistical sample 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 that 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.

USDA FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE



The Farm Service Agency offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. As of October 2007, the annual interest rate is 4.375 percent.

AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS



The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 became effective on February 2, 1979.

It requires any foreign person who:

- acquires or transfers any interest other than a security

interest in agricultural land to submit a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer, or

- held any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on February 1, 1979, to have submitted a report to the Secretary not later than August 1, 1979.

The information required by the Secretary should be reported on form FSA-153. Any foreign person who holds, acquires, or transfers any interest in agricultural land, who the Secretary of Agriculture determines did not submit FSA-153, or who knowingly submitted a report that was incomplete, misleading, or false is subject to civil penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed.

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.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

CALIFORNIA FARM CONFERENCE February 24-26, 2008 in Visalia

The California Small Farm Conference is the state's premier gathering of small farmers and those who support them. The three day educational conference includes on-farm tours, focused workshops, general educational sessions and opportunities for peer networking.

The next convening of the California Farm Conference will be **February 24-26, 2008** in Visalia.



The theme of the 2008 California Small Farm Conference is **Growing Opportunities**. While small farmers continue to face many challenges, they are also finding unprecedented op-

portunities. The growing interest in locally-grown food and supporting sustainable food systems offers great promise for the small farmer that is able to produce a high quality product and market it effectively to consumers hungry for California-grown foods.

Conference topics will include cultivation, water conservation, pest management, business development, USDA opportunities, and marketing. In addition, workshops will be offered that address the particular issues facing new farmers, experienced farmers and farmers' market managers.

For additional information regarding the conference, please call 888-712-4188 or for those with internet access www.californiainfarmconference.com/

CROP & LIVESTOCK DISASTER SIGNUPS UNDERWAY!

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Nov 2	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 3	Last Day to return County Committee Election Ballots
Dec 25	Christmas Day Holiday

Please call for an appointment

Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

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