



October 2007

# *Madera County News*

Madera County  
USDA Service Center

**Madera County FSA**  
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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Ryan Jones-Chairman  
Lance Shebelut-Vice Chair  
Jugdev Gill-Member  
Reis Soares-Advisor

**FSA Staff**  
Joe Grillo-CED  
Program Technician  
Debbie Cook  
Audrey Hibdon  
Nancy Talley  
Loan Officers  
Chantal Haun  
Melanie Fry

**NRCS Staff**  
Rob Roy  
Jenny Gabor  
Dennis Dudley  
Garry Ford

## ***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 for 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 and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

## ***Livestock Disaster Programs***

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

## ***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 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 Dec 3, 2007.



## ***Agriculture Census Information Online***

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has launched a web site to provide producers with news and information on the upcoming census. The site is located at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>. According to NASS, the Census site is part of their ongoing effort to accommodate the growing number of farmers and ranchers that are using the Internet. This year will mark the first time that producers have the option of filling out their Census forms online, saving both time and postage costs.

The Census of Agriculture is taken every five years, gathering information about every farm and ranch in the nation and the people who operate them. A variety of topics are covered and the Census provides comprehensive agricultural data for every county. Forms will be mailed to producers in late December that will include directions for responding online. Census forms are due by Feb. 4, 2008.



### **A Little Friendly Competition**

The Madera FSA Office is challenging the Madera NRCS office to a little friendly competition. Each office has formed a relay team and will be racing in Fresno's Eye-Q Trail of 2 Cities Half Marathon on November 11. Place your bets and come out to watch the fun. Or better yet, see if your team can beat the FSA and NRCS teams by going to [RunFresno.com](http://RunFresno.com).



Also competing in the individual 13.1 walk division from Madera FSA are Melanie Fry and Chantal Haun.

The USDA promotes healthy living through good diet and exercise.

### **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 entire 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.

### **FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Rancher**

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a "regular" farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service

Agency. These loans finance up to the \$200,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

### **Youth Loan Projects**

The interest rate is set the first of each month, and is currently 5.75 percent. The rate for "limited resource producers" is 5.00 percent.

The regular farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years. The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths 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 \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.



Happy Halloween

## FACTS

Did you know that:

1) California dominates the dairy industry and grows more than half of the country's fruits and vegetables.

2) It takes 50,000 bees to produce 500 pounds of honey a year.

3) The average ear of corn has 800 kernels arranged in 16 rows.

4) The average American drinks about 25 gallons of milk a year.

5) A box of corn flakes has about 8% of corn in it.

### Say What ? ? ?

How do you fix a broken tomato?  
*Tomato paste*

Why don't you tell secrets in a garden?  
*The corn has ears.*

What did the farmer call the cow that would not give him any milk?  
*An udder failure*

How do you fix a cracked pumpkin?  
*With a pumpkin patch!*



## **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's 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.

## **Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification**

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used for farm programs.

FSA will spot check acreages on a selected number of farms in each state. Color imagery flown in summer 2007 will be used to complete all acreage determinations.

All acreage spot checks will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator.

Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification.



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<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
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 15	Final date to pay for 2008 NAP coverage for most Fruit/Nut crops.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Continues	Livestock Indemnity Program
Continues	Disaster Program Signup

Visit our Web site [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/\\*\\*](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/**)