

USDA FSA NEWS November 2006

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 Debra N. Kelly, Vice-Chair
 Colleen T. Lopes, Member

Staff
 James Robello,
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Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Applications for crop year 2007 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are being accepted. NAP is a federally funded program designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. The deadline to file an application is **December 1, 2006**.

The sales closing date of September 1, 2006 has passed for value loss crops such as turf grass, floriculture, nursery, and aquaculture. The value loss sales closing date notice was published in our July 2006 Newsletter.

What Crops Are Eligible?

Eligible crops are any commercial agriculture crop (excluding livestock and their by-products), or commodity, or acreage of a commodity as follows:

- crops grown for food or fiber, excluding trees grown for wood, paper or pulp products; and
- specialty crops, such as aquaculture, floriculture, ornamental nursery, turf for sod, industrial crops, and seed crops used to produce crops that are eligible for NAP,
- crops planted and grown for livestock consumption,
- crops for which Catastrophic Insurance is not available.

NOTE: Coffee, papaya and banana crops will be offered Catastrophic Insurance coverage in Hawaii from crop year 2007, as such, they are not an eligible for NAP coverage.

How Do I Become Eligible For Payment ?

Under NAP definition a producer is an owner, landlord, tenant, sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing the crop, and is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm, or would have shared had the crop been produced. To be eligible for NAP payments, producers shall timely:

- file an application for coverage (CCC-471),
- pay a nonrefundable service fee of \$100 per crop,
- accurately report crop acreage and shares (FSA-578),
- certify crop production history,
- file "Farm Operating Plan" (CCC-502)
- provide certification for the \$2 million gross revenue limit on each "person" in an operation,
- certify conservation compliance (AD-1026),
- request measurement service fee,
- file a notice of loss and application for payment in the event of a loss,
- request a crop appraisal, as applicable.

How Much Does It Cost?

To be eligible, a producer shall pay a nonrefundable service fee in an amount that is equal to the lesser of \$100 per crop, per administrative county; or \$300 per producer, per administrative county, and not to exceed a total of \$900 for multiple county producers.

Acreage & Production Reporting

Only crops for which a unit acreage report is on file will be eligible for NAP assistance. Unit acreage certification must include all acreage of the eligible crop in which during the crop year the producer has an interest.

Except for grazed forage, controlled environment crops, and value loss crops, production must be reported for any NAP crop acreage. For each unit acreage certification, the producer must certify production of the acreage. At the end of the crop year, all producers will be required to summarize acreage planted during the crop year and actual production (harvested and appraised) from those acres the later of within 30 days from the end of the last countable production for the covered crop, or 30 days after the last date on which such production could have been obtained.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines—Grazed Forage, Controlled Environment, and Value Loss Crops

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Crop</u>
September 30	Aquaculture and Horticulture
December 16	Forage and Pasture
December 31	Sugar, Orchard, CRP
January 2	Honey

Production Recordkeeping Requirements

For any covered crop acreage for which an application for coverage is filed, a producer must keep acceptable contemporaneous records created at the time of planting and through the harvest of the crop for the full period of coverage. These records must include date and location, and according to crop type grouping on the unit, the amount of:

- acreage planted,
- production appraised and harvested.

For harvested production, the producer must provide an explanation of disposition including where and when sold.

Producer's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- providing, when required, the best verifiable or reliable production evidence available for the crop,
- summarizing all the production evidence,
- accounting for all the crop production, whether or not records reflect this production.

FSA NEWS

Vote for your County Committee candidate!

The annual election for the Farm Service Agency County Committee is coming up.

This year, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be electing a representative to the Committee. LAA 1 consists of all ranches and farms located north, northwest, and northeast of Kuihelani Hwy., Hana Hwy., and Haleakala Hwy. It includes the communities of Hana, Keanae, Haiku, Makawao, Paia, Kahului, Wailuku, Kahakuloa, and Lahaina.

The following persons were nominated to hold office:

- James Carpio—Mr. Carpio is a nursery owner/operator in Haiku.
- Colleen Lopes—Mrs. Lopes is the owner/operator of a ranch and hog farm in Haiku.
- Anna Palomino—Ms. Palomino is the owner/operator of a nursery in Haiku.

If your farm is located in this area you may be an eligible candidate or voter. Contact the Maui County FSA Office if you would like to be added to confirm your voting eligibility, or be added to the eligible voter list. Any eligible farmer or rancher may request a ballot from FSA if they don't receive one in the mail.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Maui County FSA office by December 4.

Ballots will be counted at the FSA office in Wailuku by December 11. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

The FSA County Committee is an important link between national USDA programs and local farmers. As part of the Committee, members will make important decisions on the needs of local farm programs. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the County Committee and vote in the elections.

If you don't receive a ballot in the mail by mid-November, contact the FSA office and we will mail you a ballot or make arrangements to have you come in and complete a walk-in ballot.

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age who are eligible to participate in FSA programs can vote for their County Committee.

Elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

FSA is committed to diversity on County Committees and encourages the participation of minority, female and other under-represented and under-served producers.

To find out more about the FSA county committee, call the Maui County FSA office at (808) 244-3100 extension 2. You may also visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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