



November 2007

## Merced – Mariposa County News

Merced-Mariposa  
USDA Service Center

Merced County FSA  
2135 Wardrobe Avenue  
Suite B  
Merced, CA 95341-6445  
(209) 722-4119 ext 2  
(209) 725-2964 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/

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

**County Committee**  
John C. Dores  
Lucy M. Nunes  
Gary Preston  
RoseAnne Serrano

**Farm Program Staff**

Michelle Guinn  
Gizela Meirinho-Gover  
Lydia Swilley

Laura Westerfield, CED

**Farm Loan Staff**

Phyllis Boyle  
Amy Cody  
Chantel Haun  
Jeffrey Kincaid

LaVon Treasure, FLM

### 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. **Appointments for CDP are currently being scheduled. Call the FSA Office at (209) 722-4119 ext. 2.**

*NOTE: 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.*

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.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Producers will need to bring:

- Total crop production
- Loss Adjustment information from crop insurance
- Bee receipts for Almond crops
- Growing Contracts
- Proof of ownership on all cropland, rangeland and forestland in which the applicant has an interest.

### Livestock Disaster Programs

#### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program is available to help livestock owners who suffered animal losses due to an eligible weather condition. Many local livestock operators suffered significant animal losses due to excessive prolonged heat in July of 2006.

Livestock owners should schedule an appointment by calling the Merced-Mariposa FSA Office at (209) 72-4119 ext 2.

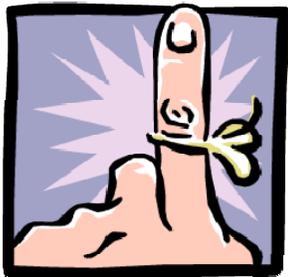
Producers should bring:

- Inventory by type and kind of animals owned as of July 1, 2006.
- Documentation to support the animal deaths for the period July 1-September 29, 2006; tallow works pick up sheets, landfill receipts, etc.
- Third party certification for animal deaths where no other form of proof exists. This is a two part process: The owner certifies there is no other proof and an independent third party who is aware of the animal losses certifies their knowledge of the livestock operation and the animal losses. This third party must sign and date a written certification statement and provide their name, address and phone number.

Please see the next page for payment rates per head. Payments are limited to \$80,000

Type	Weight Range	Payment per head
Beef Non-adult	Less than 400 lbs	\$ 130.08
	400 lbs or more	\$ 167.20
Beef Adult	Cow	\$244.46
	Bull	\$ 317.80
Dairy Non-adult	Less than 400 lbs	\$ 112.78
	400 lbs or more	\$ 225.55
Dairy Adult	Cow	\$ 451.10
	Bull	\$ 451.10





## Program Reminders

Sows/Boars/Barrows/Gilts	151 to 450 lbs	\$24.36
Lightweight Barrows/Gilts	50 to 150 lbs	\$19.21
Feeder Pigs	Under 50 lbs	\$14.07
Sheep	Rams	\$ 8.99
	Ewes	\$ 8.99
	Lambs	\$ 24.36
Goats	Bucks	\$ 17.97
	Does	\$ 17.97
	Slaughter goats/kids	\$ 24.36
Chickens	Layers/Roasters	\$ 1.95
	Broilers/Pullets	\$ 0.55
	Chicks	\$ 0.06
Turkeys	Toms/Fryers/Roasters	\$ 3.52
	Poults	\$ 0.29
Ducks	Ducks	\$ 0.97
	Ducklings	\$ 0.16
Geese	Goose	\$ 4.42
	Gosling	\$ 0.93

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock Operators in Merced and Mariposa Counties who have suffered losses to native rangeland feed due to freezing conditions in January of 2007 may be eligible for benefits under the LCP.

Call the Merced-Mariposa FSA Office at (209) 722-4119 ext. 2.

Producers will need to bring:

- Leases for all cropland, rangeland and forestland they have an interest in for 2007
- Inventory of eligible livestock by type/kind owned as of January 6, 2007. This must be broken down by the county where the animal was located on January 6, 2007.

### Payment Eligibility for Disaster

Producers who apply for any of the three disaster programs, CDP, LCP and LIP, must be determined eligible for payment in the year they are requesting benefits. The person or entity that claimed the profit or loss is the applicant. The applicant will certify to their compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands Conservation laws for all cropland, rangeland and forestland in which they had an interest. Applicants will also certify to their average adjusted gross income (AGI) for the three years before the year they are applying for benefits.

Applicants will complete a farm business plan whereby they will indicate where the capital, land, equipment, labor and management for the farming operation came from.

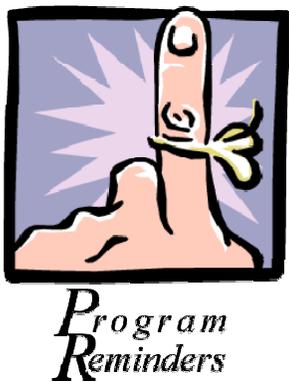
Partnerships must provide a partnership agreement. Corporations, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Companies and the like must provide Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and minutes from annual meetings. All farming operations must provide the tax identification number and mailing address for the business and all members. The applicant will also need to provide a voided check from the account where direct deposits will be made.

Please let the FSA Office know if the applicant is a business that no longer exists.

### 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, 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.
- 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:
  1. Promissory note
  2. Assignment of payment
  3. Joint payment authorization
  4. NAP Actual Production His-



tory and approved yield reports

5. Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
  6. Financing statements
  7. UCC Financing Statements
- 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
  - 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.

## County Committee Election

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. 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.

## ***Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)***

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to CAT insurance.

2007 Crop Disaster Legislation requires appli-

cants to have protected their crops under the Federal Crop Insurance programs for those crops covered in the county or to have purchased NAP when the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Ask yourself if \$300 per county is too much to pay to ensure your eligibility for future crop disaster programs.

The following 2008 crop sales closing dates are quickly approaching.

- December 1, 2007 – Honey
- December 17, 2007 – asparagus, cherries, kiwi, olives, pears, persimmons, pistachios, pomegranates, melons, young almonds & walnuts, strawberries.

The cost of NAP is \$100 per crop per county not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 per producer. If you have gross receipts over \$2 million in the tax year preceding the year you are applying for benefits you are not eligible for NAP, however, remember the bigger picture is to establish eligibility for ad hoc disaster programs which currently have an Adjusted Gross Income limitation.

What will you have to do to participate after you have paid your administrative fee?

1. report all acreage farmed each year
2. report all crop production each year

Participation in NAP will assist National Agriculture Statistics Service in evaluating crop production in the area. This data will be used by Federal Crop Insurance to develop new programs to better serve the needs of local producers. Establishment of actual production histories for all crops grown, means FSA has your production history records. No more digging through your files at home when the Farm Bill changes and new foundation information is required. As someone recently stated, you pay a great deal more than \$300 per year to protect your vehicle, your home and your life, why wouldn't you pay that small fee to protect your livelihood?

### ***2007 NAP Rangeland Losses***

The rangeland grasses west of the San Joaquin River were determined to have suffered a 73 percent loss due to drought for the 2007 year. The remainder of Merced County and all of Mariposa County experienced losses, however the data did not indicate losses greater than 50 per cent of available feed.

The sales closing date for 2008 NAP for Grazed Forage has been extended to December 3, 2007. If you have not yet purchased coverage please contact the FSA office at (209) 722-4119 ext 2. Future Ad Hoc disaster programs may require NAP coverage as an eligibility requirement. Again, \$100 per county is cheap insurance.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Nov 22	Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	2008 NAP Forage Closing Date
Dec. 3	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 7	Ballot Counting 9:00
Dec. 17	2008 NAP Sales Closing Date for: asparagus, cherries, kiwi, olives, pears, persimmons, pistachios, pomegranates, melons, young almonds & walnuts, strawberries
Dec. 25	Office Closed - Christmas Day Holiday
Jan. 1	Office Closed – New Years Day

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