



February 2008

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

Si necesit una explicacion in espanol por favor llamenos a la oficina

USDA Service Center

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

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Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

FSA County Committee

Rich Uto, LAA#1
Frank LaMacchia LAA#2
Ed Roth, LAA#3
Sam (Bud) Mann, LAA#4

Minority Advisors

Dominic Muzzi
Peter Navarro

2008 County Committee Members

The results of the 2007 Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County elections are in. Local Administrative Area #2 (LAA#2), central Monterey County, resulted in election of the following candidates:

Frank LaMacchia, Regular Member
Betty Barrington, 1st Alternate

Members took office effective January 1, 2008 and will serve a three-year term.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is 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 catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for **which federal crop insurance is not available** and is produced for food or fiber. Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to: (1) producers must have or share in the risk of producing the crop; (2) producers must be in compliance with conservation provisions (filing form AD-1026); (3) producers may not have gross annual revenue greater than \$2 million in the prior year; (4) producers must file a farm operating plan and supporting documents, with signature authorities; (5) must file acreage reports by the applicable reporting deadline; (6) must file a notice of loss timely (on form CCC-576); (7) must have an inspection and/or appraisal of the damaged crop, and (8) must file production records by the applicable deadline.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage

or changing crop shares must file a new application (Form CCC-471) with signatures and pay the applicable service fee, by the applicable application closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits and be in compliance with other crop disaster program requirements: (a) Timely file accurate acreage reports and keep a record of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. (b) **Note:** flower growers and other value loss crops must file a complete flower inventory in the county office at the beginning of each month in order to be eligible for NAP benefits. (c) File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the disaster event, or as soon as a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, or other natural disaster condition. (d) Timely file production records no later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date. For example, 2007 strawberry growers must file all of their 2007 production records no later than July 15, 2008. (e) Report any changes to your farming operation, or gross income, as they occur. (f) Annually pay the administrative fee in the county for the crops that you intend to receive NAP coverage on. The fee is \$100 per crop per county, with a maximum of \$300 per county for all crops in one county. The maximum a producer can pay is \$900 for all crops in all counties.

2008 NAP Application Closing Dates (non-insurable crops)

1/1/2007	2008 Citrus crops (Avocados, citrus crops, oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit)
8/1/2007	Fall planted seed crops (grain crops that are not insurable)

9/1/2007	Value Loss Crops (field flowers, aquaculture, christmas trees, etc)
12/1/2007	Honey
12/15/2007	Fruit & nut tree crops, almonds, strawberries, apricots, cherries, asparagus, caneberries, grapes, kiwi, mint, nectarines, olives, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, walnuts, etc)
12/15/2007	Forage Crops (Hay and Native pasture)
01/01/2008	2009 Citrus Crops
01/31/2008	Apples
03/01/2008	2008 Annual spring planted crops (vegetables)

Acreage Reporting Requirements and Reporting Dates

Acreage reports are required in order to maintain your eligibility for certain Farm Service Agency programs. 2008 Reporting dates in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo counties are:

Flowers, Value Loss Crops & Forage	October 1, 2007
Fall seeded grains:	April 30, 2008
Other crops,	July 15, 2008

Acreage reports must be filed timely and accurately. All cropland on the farm must be reported if you are enrolled in the Direct & Countercyclical Program, have marketing assistance loans, or are requesting loan deficiency payment benefits. Anyone who has acceptable signature authority on file in the county office may sign the acreage report

Late-filed acreage reports may be requested for a fee and if disposition of the crop by an inspection can be made. Measurement service fees are charged for time and mileage for late-filed acreage reports as well as measurement services.

2005/2006/2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). This program provides assistance to eligible livestock owners for feed losses on non-irrigated grazing land resulting from an eligible disaster condition between January 1, 2005 through crop year 2007. Sign-up for the program began September 10, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits. Eligible livestock are livestock that are maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and were physically located in a disaster county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period. Please contact the office to make an appointment for this program. The maximum payment limitation for this program is \$80,000.

2005/2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program.

This program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to eligible crops in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up began October 15, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Losses from eligible natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance in 2005, 2006, or 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. **Important Note:** Only producers who obtained federal crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured 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%. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. Participants must have been in compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions in the applicable crop year. A producer is ineligible to receive CDP payments if the FSA State Committee, FSA County Committee or an FSA Official determines that the producer committed, or attempted to commit fraud, or did not have an ownership share of the crop. To receive CDP benefits, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer was prevented from planting a crop; sustained a loss in excess of

35% of the expected production of the crop; or sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the value of value-loss crops. Production will be assigned for ineligible causes of loss, lack of adequate production records, the participant carries out practices that generally results in lower yields than the established historic yields, the participant has a contract to receive a guaranteed payment for all or a portion of the crop; a crop is late-planted, non-harvested acreage was not timely appraised, or other appropriate causes as determined by the Deputy Administrator of FSA. Prevented planted acreage will be considered separately from planted acreage of the same crop. Disaster payments for insured crops for prevented planted acreage shall not be made unless the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or FSA documentation indicates that the eligible participant received a prevented planting payment under either the NAP or RMA administered programs. Additional information on quality losses and sign-up procedures will be forthcoming. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Due to staffing limitations, applications will be taken by appointment only. Please call the office to get your name on the appointment list today.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Reminders

To be eligible to earn your annual CRP rental payments, you are required to annually report your crop acreage by the crop reporting deadline of no later than July 15th each year. Managed grazing on CRP is allowed with the following conditions: (1) Participants may not graze CRP between April 1 and July 1, as this is the restricted primary nesting season date for Monterey County; (2) You must have an approved conservation plan with the required details of the prescribed grazing that you plan to do; (3) you must file other documents with FSA and receive approval prior to turning any livestock out on your CRP; (4) Managed grazing cannot exceed 75 percent of the NRCS-approved stocking rate and meet specific residue requirements for compliance with CRP contract provisions.

Note that it is the participant's responsibility to notify the county office if there is a change in the ownership of cropland. If your land is moved from an individual to a trust, this is considered an ownership change, and all re-

quirements for CRP must be met by the new owner in order to succeed interest in the contract. Failure to notify the county office of changes may result in a termination of the contract and refund of CRP annual rental payments, with applicable interest and penalties.

FSA Signature Policy.

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent delays in program benefits. For example:

Spouses may sign 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 behalf of the general partnership and bind all members;

When signing one's name, the signature must match the name on the form that is being signed;

Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of a "by" or "for" the individual's name and capacity.

Contact the county office for further clarification on signature requirements.

2008 Wool and Mohair Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Requests for the 2008 crop of graded and ungraded wool and mohair will be taken through March 15, 2008. Because March 15, 2008 falls on a Saturday, requests must be postmarked or date stamped on or before March 15, 2008. Beneficial interest exception. If producers have lost beneficial interest before the directive was issued, the LDP rate in effect on the date beneficial interest was lost will be used.

**Farm Record Changes and Accurate
 Signature Authority**

Please remember to report changes to your farm operation when they occur, including changes from individual land ownership to a revocable trust, members of entities that are added or deleted, etc. Due to recent auditing of FSA records, signature authority rules and accurate farm records and reporting, will be strictly enforced. Failure to report changes may result in ineligibility and/or refunds of program benefits.

Dates to Remember	
Feb 18	President's Day-Office Closed
March 1	2008 NAP application deadline—Spring planted crops
March 14	Wool LDP filing deadline
April 30	Acreage Reporting deadline-fall seeded grain crops
May 26	Memorial Day-Office Closed
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline All other crops

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