Noninsured Crop Assistance Program – CCA Magazine May 2013
USDA Farm Service Agency, California
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Update on NAP Grazing in California
At our local FSA offices around the state, we've had livestock producers inquire about the possible NAP payment picture this year and ask for news regarding the possibility of other livestock-related programs. While some of this information is still speculative, we do know that the winter of 2012 – 2013 was particularly dry and that drought conditions persist in many parts of California. We did get some crucial rain in late winter which improved forage conditions in parts of the state, but as usual, loss assessments for the year will be made in October. Other livestock programs may be considered during Farm Bill deliberations scheduled for later this year.

What is NAP Grazing?
The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a crop insurance program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). NAP was designed to reduce the financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a **catastrophic** loss by providing a coverage equivalent to the commercially sold Catastrophic (CAT) Policy. Program benefits for NAP can be paid on production losses **in excess of 50%** of the normal expected yield for the insured crop. .

NAP Grazing operates much like any other crop insurance coverage. If a significant weather event occurs, the insured needs to contact the FSA County Office and file a Notice of Loss. At the end of the growing season, the grasses are assessed by range specialists (trained staff from NRCS, BLM, UC Extension, county ag commissioner's office.) The results are relayed to the FSA County Committee for them to make a loss determination and program payments are triggered if the determined loss is over 50% of normal forage production.

For example, in Madera County, native grasses germinate over the winter months and grow until approximately May. Grass growth is a function of soil moisture and temperature. Generally 50% to 75% of forage production in Madera County occurs in March and April but in 2012 the late season growth was even greater due to the unusually dry winter months. The timing of the growing season changes from year to year depending on when it rains and when the sun warms the earth.

What NAP Grazing is not!
NAP Grazing is neither a drought program nor an animal mortality program. USDA does have certain other programs like the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) that trigger loss payments based on short rainfall statistics or weather related animal mortality but NAP Grazing is not one of them. NAP Grazing is a crop insurance program that covers the native grasses against catastrophic losses. And we need to realize that those grasses may continue to grow even during a light precipitation period in a drought year, so those forage losses may not exceed 50% and may not trigger NAP payments.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How much does NAP coverage cost? How does a producer pay?**

The service fee for NAP is $250 per crop with a maximum of $750 per county. For producers with multi-county and multi-crop holdings the fee shall not exceed $1,875. Payment can be made at the FSA County Office with your records.

2. **Do producers need to provide FSA with animal counts and the amount of fed or purchased hay?**

   No. However, producers must provide FSA with the location of all the land in the operation.

3. **Can benefits be paid on land that was not actually grazed?**

   Yes, as long as there was an intent to graze.

4. **Can the fee be paid or an application filed after the application closing date?**

   No. There are no provisions for late-filing.

5. **Can producers receive payments even if there is not a disaster declaration?**

   Yes, disaster declarations are not necessary.

6. **Will the payments cover the cost of hay purchases?**

   Not necessarily. The payments are only intended to provide limited benefits to help mitigate catastrophic losses.

7. **Are the loss and carrying capacity (acres/animal unit) determined on an individual basis?**

   No, the payment calculation for all producers is based on generally applied loss percentages, carrying capacities, and grazing period days, as determined by the County Committee.