



October 2007

## FSA News

### Hollister Service Center

San Benito/Santa Clara  
County FSA Office  
2337 Technology Pkwy  
Suite A  
Hollister, CA 95023  
831 637-4360 (phone)  
831 636-7643 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

### Hours

**Normal office hours are**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Due to staff shortage of-  
fice may at times be  
closed. You MUST make  
an appointment to en-  
sure you will be served.**

### County Committee

Wayne Shingai, LAA1  
Nenette Corotto, LAA2  
Joseph Gonzales, LAA3

### Staff

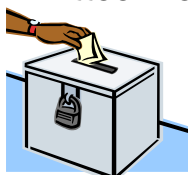
Jeannine Leyva, CED  
Rebekah Reische, PT

**Farm Loan Staff** are head-  
quartered in the Salinas Ser-  
vice Center (831) 424-7377  
(phone)

**NRCS** is co-located in the  
Hollister Service Center, in  
Suite C. Dial extension 3 to  
reach NRCS staff.



### County Committee Election



#### Meet the Candidates:

Two candidates are running for the seat on the local committee to represent the Hollis-  
ter/northern San Benito County area:

**Wayne Shingai** is a San Juan Bautista native who has farmed in the area since 1981. He is currently operating about 90 acres of a variety of field crops including leaf lettuce, zucchini, and bell peppers.

**Maria Martinez** has farmed in this county since 1990. She is currently operating about 40 acres of a variety of field crops including zucchini, broccoli, and head lettuce.

#### Return your ballots by December 3

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters in LAA1 (the Hollister/northern San Benito County area) beginning Nov. 2. To be eligible to vote you must:

- Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as an owner, operator, or tenant. This can be as an individual or as a partner in a general partnership or joint venture.
- Be eligible to participate in any FSA program.

If you meet these requirements, farm in the Hollister area & didn't receive a ballot notify our office right away! Completed and signed ballots must be received by the close of business on Dec. 3. **Get involved -- vote!**

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

A new Livestock Compensation Program is available for sign up starting September 10<sup>th</sup>. San Benito & Santa Clara Counties have been approved to administer the LCP Program.

For producers to be eligible you must have owned or leased grazing land in an eligible county.

Eligible livestock include beef, dairy, sheep, goats, swine, and poultry that were maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation physically located in San Benito or Santa Clara County on January 6, 2007.

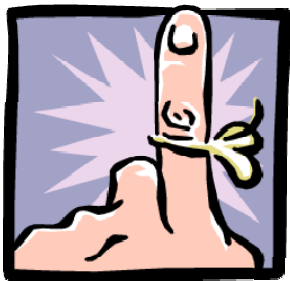
You will need to provide FSA with the following information: (1) The number and class of livestock on hand as of January 6, 2007, and (2) Leases, permits, partnership, trust or corporate papers in addition to other required FSA forms, some of which may already be on file.

A person with adjusted gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million is not eligible for benefits under LCP.

Contact our office for additional information.

**→DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES, YOU  
MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT IN  
ORDER TO SIGN-UP FOR THIS  
PROGRAM←**





## Program Reminders

### Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

AFIDA forms (FSA-153) are available online or at our office.

### 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, and 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.

Contact our office for additional information.

**→DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES, YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT IN ORDER TO SIGN-UP FOR THIS PROGRAM←**

### Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

A new Livestock Indemnity Program is available for sign up starting September 10<sup>th</sup>. San Benito & Santa Clara Counties have been approved to administer the LIP Program.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas are eligible. Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. The producer **must** provide supporting documentation which must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, the location of the livestock at the time of death.

Eligible livestock include dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, and poultry.

You will need to provide FSA with the following information: (1) The number and class of livestock on hand and the number and class of the livestock that died, (2) supporting documentation for evidence of loss (veterinarian records, bank or other loan papers, rendering truck receipts, private insurance documents) and (3) Leases, permits, partnership, trust or corporate papers in addition to other required FSA forms, some of which may already be on file.

A person with adjusted gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million is not eligible for benefits under LIP.

*Contact our office for additional information.*

## Notice re: FSA Office Hours

Please be aware that due to a staff shortage the office may occasionally be temporarily closed. To ensure someone will be available to assist you, **please call ahead** at (831) 637-4360 extension 2 before visiting.

Also, we will no longer be able to accommodate drop-ins for any program applications. You must call to **schedule an appointment if you wish to apply for any program.**

If the office is temporarily closed, please call and leave a voicemail message; there is also a mail drop slot in the front door if you are returning paperwork.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause, and will continue to provide the best service we possibly can. Thank you for your cooperation.

Now Open For  
Fun and Games



**FSA Kids**

[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

## Emergency Loans Available

San Benito & Santa Clara county farmers who suffered significant damage due to freezing conditions that occurred in January 2007 may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from FSA. San Benito & Santa Clara County have been designated as a primary & contiguous agricultural disaster area.

To be eligible for these 3.75% loans, farmers must have suffered at least a 30% loss of production directly related to the above disaster; be able to re-pay the loan and any other loans; be unable to get financing from any other source; have adequate security; and have multi-peril crop insurance (if available). Loan applications will be accepted at the Salinas Service Center through November 13, 2007.

Contact the Farm Loan staff at (831) 424-7377 for more information.

## Final Payments for 2007 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during 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).



## Direct Deposit Mandatory

Payments from FSA are required by law to be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings account. Forms are available at our office. For those already signed up, it is important that any changes to your account – such as bank mergers, changes to account numbers, or closed accounts – be provided to us promptly to avoid payment delays.

## NAP Deadlines Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline date for certain 2008 NAP crops is approaching:

Sales Deadline	Crops
December 1	Onions, honey
December 15	Cherries, strawberries, cane berries, asparagus

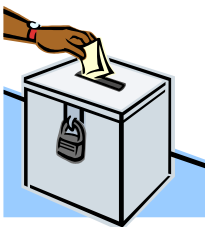
NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is equivalent to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance. It's available for commercial crops for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock but is available for forage and rangeland losses. *(If you are not sure which crops are insurable, contact our office or a crop insurance sales agent. Note: **apples are now insurable in San Benito County** – sales closing date is January 31st).*

If you already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops, you may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2008, if the service fee is paid by the application closing date. If you want to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or change shares, you must contact our office and file a new application.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods and submit complete records after harvest.
- File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when the loss is apparent.

Contact us for more information on NAP or crop insurance. You can also find information on crop insurance on the Risk Management Agency's website at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)



Dates to Remember	
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. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Visit our Web site  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CA>

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