



July 2007

# Stockton Service Center

3422 W Hammer Ln., STE C

Stockton, CA 95219

(209) 472-7127

## Stockton Service Center FSA Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Internet Web Page  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

County Committee:  
Patti Spence, Chairman  
Kenny Watkins, V-Chair  
Rudy Mussi, Member  
Anthony Castello, Mem.  
Glenn Stonebarger, Mem.

CO Executive Director:  
Jeffery J Torres

Farm Loan Manager  
Belle Davis

County Office Staff:  
Lenore Miller, CPT  
Michael Tanaka, PT  
Sharon Coon, PT  
Erick Rodriguez, PT  
Parveen Bains, PT  
Karin Sung, FLO  
Rosie Pombo, PT  
Terri White, PT  
Sue Gribben, FLO

## 2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLIC PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP

Sign-up for 2007 DCP is underway. Producers involved with this program must sign up every year to receive payment.

FSA has extended the normal June 1 deadline to August 3, 2007. This extension is a result of earlier problems with our computer network. **A late file fee of \$100 will be assessed for each farm enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30<sup>th</sup>.**



**NO FARMS WILL BE ENROLLED IN DCP AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2007!**

## SPRING PLANTED CROP CERTIFICATION

All spring seeded crop acreage must be reported to the FSA office if you are participating in the Direct and Counter Cyclic Program (DCP) or wish to apply for a crop loan or LDP. NOTE: Crop planting dates are required to complete your certification.

**All certifications must be completed by July 15, 2007.** Late filed certifications will incur a late filing fee. As required by 2-CP Amendment 49, Par. 460, the STO set a measurement service rate for all of CA. They set the late fee rate at \$15 base + hourly rate of \$16.00 or \$8.00 for 30 minutes with a one hour minimum + mileage. (\$15. + \$16. + mileage)

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Agricultural producers who have suffered losses as a result of natural disasters can count on crop disaster programs. All crops are eligible. However, producers must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Assistance Program in order to qualify.

Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007) and be a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits. Quality loss assistance will be available for some crops as well.

Specific details on program provisions are not yet available, but the aid package will certainly be a big help for the state's growers who have suffered substantial losses. As more information becomes available we will provide updates and we encourage anyone interested to access our website where we will post information as soon as it becomes available: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**Sign up for the Ag. Disaster programs will most likely occur later this fall.** We are asking producers to be patient and read their FSA county office newsletters for program sign up information.



## Livestock Programs:

Producers choose for each livestock program one of three years for which they would receive benefits. Most CA counties are eligible. For a complete list of eligible counties by year, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and select California from the state office menu at the top of the page.





## FSA SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment.

Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

*Continued from Page 1:*

**The Livestock Compensation Program** provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007). Eligible livestock are: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, and deer.

**The Livestock Indemnity Program** makes payments available to producers that have incurred "more than normal" livestock losses between Jan.1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a disaster. A producer will select the losses in one year for benefits.

### **Dairy Programs:**

**The Dairy Assistance Program** compensates producers for reduced milk production due to a natural disaster in a declared disaster county. Nationwide, \$16 million is available. A full listing of the disaster counties is available online: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **County Committee Elections**

It is County Committee election time and this newsletter is your guide to the 2007 election. Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, San Joaquin County is divided into two local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring.

The three steps in the election process are:

1. the call for nominations,
2. the election and
3. installing the new committee member.

### **San Joaquin County Opening**

LAA 1 is defined as the Delta, all areas west of I-5.

## **Election Timetable**

- June 15,** 2007 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1,** 2007 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 2,** 2007 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 3,** 2007 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA County Office.
- Jan. 1,** 2008 New committee member and installed.

### **Nominations Open June 15**

Nominations for candidates to run for the County Committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area 1 will be accepted from June 15 – August 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in LAA1, up for election, may participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

Nomination form, FSA-669A, and details are available at the county office or can be downloaded from the FSA web site. To find these forms online simply go to: [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections)

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 1, 2007 or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2007.

### **Election**

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 2, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on December 3, or postmarked no later than midnight on December 3, 2007 to be eligible. Don't forget to sign your ballot.

## Record Changes

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation including but not limited to:

- Land ownership changes, *putting land into a trust*;
- Adding or dropping a tract of land (leases);
- Entity type or Identification # changes;
- Marriage, Divorce, or Deaths.

## DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYMENTS IS MANDATORY

As of January 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is extremely important that we are notified any-time there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

## GRAIN & WOOL PRODUCERS 633EZ LDP FORM

By signing the first page of the 633EZ form, producers indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

This form must be signed before beneficial interest in the crop is lost. Once page 1 of the EZ form has been signed, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

### THE NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP coverage is similar to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock. NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The service fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum fee.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.



Producers with 2007 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, packing house packing records, cash sale records, farmers' market sales records, etc.
- File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss is apparent.

Crop year 2008	Application Closing Date
Forage Crops-Contra Costa & Alameda Counties	9/1/2007
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops.	9/1/2007
Forage Crops-San Joaquin Co	10/1/2007
Onions, Honey	12/1/2007
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Avocados, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Walnuts	12/15/2007
Apples	1/31/2008
All other annuals	3/1/2008

### 2007 COMPLIANCE AND SPOTCHECK

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA will conduct compliance review and spot checks of producer selected by the National Office. FSA may review a producer's operation in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producer's in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.



**APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED**

The Stockton Service Center workload has increased dramatically with the 2007 Payment Eligibility requirements, the extension of the DCP Deadline, and upcoming acreage reporting certifications and prevented planting applications.

Dates to Remember	
July 15, 2007	Spring seeded crop certification due. Please provide planting dates.
Various Dates	NAP application deadlines. See page 3 for details
NAP Crop Damage Report	No later than 15 days from date of damaging weather occurrence
Prevented Planting Claims	No later than 14 days after the crop insurance final planting date for the prevented crop.
August 3, 2007	DCP signup deadline to avoid \$100 per farm late fee

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