

**SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS**

*November 2007*

**County Committee**

Linda Neal (LAA 1)  
Richard Hamilton (LAA 2)  
Craig Gnos (LAA 3)  
Craig Nakahara, Advisor

**County Executive Director**

Lynda Janne

**Contact Numbers**

707-678-1931 or 944-0622  
FAX 707-678-5001

**County Office Staff**

Laura VanHoose, ext 106  
Bonnie Nogales, ext 102  
Shay Renschler, ext 100  
**FSA Field Rep**  
Bob Currey, ext 110

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**12/1/07: NEW DEADLINE to purchase NAP coverage on forage for grazing (native pasture)**

**12/1/07: Last date to purchase NAP coverage on honey and onions**

**12/3/07: Deadline to deliver or mail ballot (LAA 1 COC election)**

**12/15/07: Last date to purchase NAP coverage on nut tree and fruit tree crops, strawberries, grapes, etc**

**1/31/08: Final date to submit LDP request for 2007 wool & pelts**

**County Committee (COC) Election**

**Nominees for LAA 1 COC are:**

**Linda Neal  
Raymond Reyes**

*(LAA 1 includes the western portion of Napa county, bordered on the east by Butts Canyon Rd, south to Pope Valley Rd, Chiles & Pope Valley Rd, Lower Chiles Valley Rd, Hwy 128, Hwy 121, and Wooden Valley Rd)*

Ballots have been mailed to known eligible voters in LAA 1. Farm owners, operators, tenants and share-croppers of legal voting age can vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Spouses may also be eligible to vote.

Ballots must be returned to this office or postmarked by **December 3, 2007**. Vote for **one candidate only**, and **be sure to sign your ballot**.



**AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007  
SIGN-UPS BEGIN**

Sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began on 9/15/07.

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07. Solano and Napa county livestock producers may be eligible for losses due to the freeze in January 2007. Eligible grazing types of feed are non-irrigated pasture/native grasses. Eligible livestock are adult or non-adult beef cattle (over 500#), dairy cattle, equine, poultry, sheep, goats, swine, buffalo, beefalo, elk, deer, catfish and other livestock the Secretary may designate.

LIP provides benefits for livestock losses that occurred between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07, which were a direct result of a declared disaster. Solano and Napa counties suffered the following disasters: freeze, Jan 6 thru Jan 19, 2007; extreme heat, July 1 thru July 31, 2006; excessive rainfall/flooding, Dec 17, 2005 thru Apr 26, 2006. Livestock which died within 60 days of the end of the disaster period may be eligible. Only losses directly related to the disaster condition may be included. To be eligible under LIP, the livestock must have been owned by an eligible producer on the day the livestock died, and have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day the livestock died. Applicants must have their livestock inventory numbers at the start of the claimed disaster event and verifiable documentation of deaths during the disaster event (rendering truck receipts, vet records, insurance documents, receipts of carcass removal, etc).

Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on 10/15/07 for production losses; quality loss sign-ups will be announced at a later date.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007 or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate will be 42%; a 95% cap will apply. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may choose only one year to apply for benefits, but may apply for benefits for losses to 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.

LCP, LIP, CDP participants must comply with the Highly Erodible/Wetland Certification, meet the AGI requirements of \$2.5 million or less average adjusted gross income, and have a current Farm Operating Plan on file. A payment limitation of \$80,000/person applies to each program.

Benefits will be paid under only ONE year (05-07) for each program.



**CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO ENROLL IN THE 2005-2007 DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

This office is in the process of updating eligibility files for ALL payment recipients. If you are eligible to receive payment out of this office and have not yet been contacted, *please call to review your file* with one of the staff.

Please be aware, no payments will be issued to any producer under any program until their eligibility file has been updated.

#### NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For non-insurable crops, such as vineseed, sunflower, some bean crops, sudan for seed, native pasture, 5<sup>th</sup> year alfalfa, young orchards, etc, FSA offers assistance for producers suffering catastrophic losses through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops. All applications for coverage must be filed and the applicable service fees paid at the FSA office by the application closing date. (See box of "important dates" for upcoming deadlines). For coverage, you must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 if you are in multiple counties.

*You should review and apply for coverage on all crops you intend to grow, and specify the intended use of that crop.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Crop Disaster Program for losses on 05-07 crops limit eligibility to those crops which were covered by crop insurance or NAP.

Don't miss the application deadlines to obtain coverage on your future crops. If you are unsure of the deadline for a crop, CALL YOUR AGENT OR THIS OFFICE.

## **CALIFORNIA FARM CONFERENCE**

**February 24-26, 2008 in Visalia**

The California Small Farm Conference is the state's premier gathering of small farmers and those who support them. The three day educational conference includes on-farm tours, focused workshops, general educational sessions and opportunities for peer net-working. The next convening of the California Farm Conference will be February 24-26, 2008 in Visalia.

The theme of the 2008 California Small Farm Conference is Growing Opportunities. While small farmers continue to face many challenges, they are also finding unprecedented opportunities. The growing interest in locally-grown food and supporting sustainable food systems offers great promise for the small farmer that is able to produce a high quality product and market it effectively to consumers hungry for California-grown foods.

Conference topics will include cultivation, water conservation, pest management, business development, USDA opportunities, and marketing. In addition, workshops will be offered that address the particular issues facing new farmers, experienced farmers and farmers' market managers.

For additional information regarding the conference, please call 888-712-4188; for those with internet access:  
[www.californiafarmconference.com](http://www.californiafarmconference.com)

### **LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP): 2007 WOOL & PELTS**

LDP rates continue to be in effect for 2007 crop wool & unshorn pelts. The deadline to request an LDP for the 2007 crop is January 31, 2008.

If you have not sold or delivered your wool by that date, you can certify to the weight – but you must submit your request by the deadline, or you will be unable to receive an LDP payment for that wool.

In order to receive payment, your eligibility records must be current, and you must have a 2007 acreage report on file.

## **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.

### **Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 became effective on February 2, 1979. It requires any foreign person who:

- acquires or transfers any interest other than a security interest in agricultural land to submit a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer, or
- held any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on February 1, 1979, to have submitted a report to the Secretary not later than August 1, 1979.

The information required by the Secretary should be reported on form FSA-153. Any foreign person who holds, acquires, or transfers any interest in agricultural land, who the Secretary of Agriculture determines did not submit FSA-153, or who knowingly submitted a report that was incomplete, misleading, or false is subject to civil penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed.

**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Solano-Napa County Farm Service Agency  
1170 North Lincoln Street, Suite 109  
Dixon, California 95620**

**COUNTY FSA OFFICE HOURS: 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday  
Closed on Holidays**

**Closed: Nov 22, Thanksgiving Day  
Dec 25, Christmas Day  
Jan 1, New Years Day**

The Solano-Napa County Committee (COC) regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the county FSA office. These are public meetings.

**IMPORTANT WEB PAGES**

**USDA Homepage: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)**

**Farm Service Agency: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

**California State FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/)**

**Risk Management Agency: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)**

**Natural Resource Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

**Solano County Ag Commissioner: [www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)**

**Napa County Ag Commissioner:**

**<http://www.co.napa.ca.us/Gov/Departments/DeptDefault.asp?DID=26400>**

*Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.*

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*