



U.S. Department  
Of  
Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency

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### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Joshua Sheppard – Chair  
Gregory Stephens – Vice  
Chair  
Roy Roney - Member  
Harmanjit S. Gosal –Advisor

### County Director

Robert L. Maurer

### Staff

Shän Bertapelle  
Jennifer Pooler  
Teresa Blackson  
Erin Quigley  
Brenda Richter

### CA State Appraiser

David Widlund

### Farm Loan Manager

Tom Roberts

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

#### COC Meetings

Second Thursday of each  
month at 1:00 PM

(Subject to change)

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> Crop Report  
Deadline

Sep. 1<sup>st</sup> Office Closed for  
Labor Day

More deadlines on the  
back page



## Farm Service Agency

# BUTTE COUNTY

August 2008



## 2008 DCP SIGN-UP CONTINUES

Call to set up your appointment now. Our schedule is full so we will not be able to help 'walk-ins'. DCP signup goes through September 30, 2008. The 2008 DCP program is similar to previous years. The advanced payment rate is at 22% like previous years. There will be some changes to DCP for 2009 through 2012. More information will be released in future newsletters about 2009 DCP.

## DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>: THE FARM BILL CREATES 5 NEW DISASTER PROGRAMS

Several disaster programs were created by the new farm bill. In order to participate producers are required to have FCIC (Federal Crop Insurance Corporation) insurance policies on every crop including range and pasture, and/or NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Program) insurance on every crop. For 2008 since the deadline to purchase insurance has passed, producers will be given the opportunity to pay a 'buy-in' fee **no later than September 16, 2008** to participate in the 2008 disaster programs. The fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum per county for NAP crops and a \$300 maximum for CAT crops.

## WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONFIRM AND RESCHEDULE CROP ACREAGE REPORT APPOINTMENTS

**Timely filed crop reports are required in order to participate in ALL FSA programs.**

Acreage reports are required if you want to

be eligible for any Farm Service Agency programs **such as the New Disaster Programs, Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) and DCP.** Acreage reports are to be certified by **April 30<sup>th</sup> for fall seeded crops** and **August 15<sup>th</sup> for spring seeded crops including orchards, vineyards and other perennial crops.**

Late file fees will be waived for acreage reports filed for disaster purposes only, if crop existence or disposition evidence is filed. Acceptable evidence includes: seed receipts showing amount, variety and date purchased, receipts for cleaning, treating, etc., for the seed planted, documentation obtained and certified by another government agency indicating the acreage, location, and crop year, a written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop, aerial imagery, if a positive determination can be made of the crop's identity and boundaries, receipts, ledger sheets, diary, log book, or similar producer records showing the number and units sold, if unharvested, producer must provide a statement which shall include final use, date of destruction, method of destruction, and any supporting farm records, records showing the crop was fed to livestock, or positive documentation of payment for custom harvesting indicating acreage, location, and crop year.  
**Please call for an appointment.**

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Farm Service Agency is currently preparing a slate of candidates to be placed on the county committee election ballot. Each year, an election is held in a different LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. LAA 3 is up for election this year, which covers the central part of the county from Richvale to Durham.

## Disaster Programs

If you suffered **crop, feed or livestock losses** during the 2008 year, you may be eligible for newly created programs. In order to be eligible, you need to have FCIC insurance and/or NAP as described earlier. For 2008 only, you can sign up for these disaster programs by paying a fee by September 16, 2008. **Call and set up an appointment.**

More details about the new programs are discussed below.

### SURE Program (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments)

#### Basic Provisions

The SURE Program will be available to eligible producers on:

- farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year  
**Note:** Disaster counties are counties included in the geographic area covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration that is declared by the Secretary for production losses under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 321 (a).
- any farm in which, during the calendar year, the total loss of production of the farm because of weather is greater than 50 percent of the normal production of the farm.

In general, “**farm**” means the sum of **all** crop acreage in **all** counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

At a **minimum**, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer **must** have purchased or be enrolled in the following, for each:

- insurable crop on the farm, a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance
- noninsurable commodity on the farm, filed the required paperwork and paid the assistance fee by the applicable State deadline, for the noninsured crop assistance program.  
**Note:** For 2008, producers who do **not** meet this requirement may have this provision waived if the producers pay a fee in an amount applicable to the noninsured crop disaster assistance program fee or catastrophic risk protection plan fee by no later than **September 16**.

#### Payments

SURE Program payments will be issued to an eligible producer in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee and total

farm revenue.

The disaster assistance **program guarantee** shall be the sum obtained by adding the following, for each:

- **insurable crop** on the farm, 115 percent of the product obtained by multiplying the:
  - crop insurance price election for the crop
  - acres planted or prevented from being planted to the crop
  - percentage of the crop insurance yield elected by the producer by the higher of the adjusted APH or the counter-cyclical program payment yield
- **non-insurable crop** on the farm, 120 percent of the product obtained by multiplying:
  - 100 percent of the NAP program established price for the crop
  - the acres planted or prevented from being planted to the crop
  - the higher of the adjusted NAP program yield guarantee or the counter-cyclical program payment yield.

**Total farm revenue** for a farm shall be the sum obtained by adding the following:

- the estimated actual value of each crop produced on a farm by the product obtained by multiplying the:
  - actual crop acreage harvested
  - estimated actual yield
  - national average market price for the marketing year for each crop
- 15 percent of any direct payments issued
- the total amount of all counter-cyclical or average crop revenue payments
- the total amount of all marketing loan proceeds (including certificate gains)
- the total amount of all crop insurance or NAP indemnities
- the value of any other natural disaster assistance payments for the same loss.

### LFP (Livestock Forage Disaster Program)

LFP will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock because of:

- drought, on land that is either of the following:
  - native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover
  - planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing
- fire, on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland.

**(LFP Continued)**

To be eligible for LFP, the producer **must** have purchased or obtained the following for the grazing land incurring the losses for which assistance is being requested:

- a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, including pilot programs such as the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Program
- NAP coverage by filing the required paperwork, and paying the administrative fee by the applicable State filing deadline.

**Note:** An eligible livestock producer that suffered 2008 calendar year grazing losses on grazing land and did not meet this requirement may have this provision waived if the producer pays a fee in an amount applicable to the noninsured crop disaster assistance program fee or catastrophic risk protection plan fee by no later than **September 16, 2008**.

An eligible livestock producer that suffers a grazing loss because of drought on owned or leased grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having either of the following:

- a D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for that county, will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 1 monthly payment
- at least a D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county
  - at any time during the normal grazing period for that county, will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 2 monthly payments
  - for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period for that county, or a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county during the normal grazing period for that county, will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 3 monthly payments.

An eligible livestock producer that suffers grazing losses because of fire on rangeland that is managed by a Federal agency, and the Federal agency prohibits the eligible livestock producer from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland, will receive a payment equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the total number of livestock covered by the Federal lease. The eligible livestock producer shall **not** receive payments on more than 180 calendar days per year.

### **LIP Program (Livestock Indemnity Program)**

LIP will be available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

LIP payments to eligible livestock producers will be based

on:

- 75 percent of a fair market value, as determined by the Secretary, for each specific livestock category
- individual producers' eligible losses.

**Note:** No State, county, or other trigger will be used to define an eligible LIP area.

### **EALHF Program (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish)**

The EALHF Program will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish because of losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. The EALHF Program is intended to cover disasters that are **not** adequately covered by any other disaster program.

### **TAP (Tree Assistance Program)**

TAP is reauthorized, subject to funds being appropriated, to provide assistance to orchardists and eligible nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale that lost trees because of a natural disaster as determined by the Secretary.

TAP will be provided to producers who lost trees in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality). Producers will be reimbursed for 70 percent of the cost of replanting trees and 50 percent of the cost of pruning, removal, and other costs incurred for salvaging trees.

### **Risk Management Purchase Requirement**

A producer on a farm shall **not** be eligible for assistance under the SURE Program, the EALHF Program, or TAP if the producer on the farm did **not** purchase or obtain the following for:

- insurable commodity on the farm, a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, excluding a crop insurance pilot program under that Act
- noninsurable commodity on the farm, filed the required paperwork, and paid the administrative fee by the applicable State deadline, for the noninsured crop assistance program.

For 2008, producers who do **not** meet this requirement may have this provision waived if the producer pays a fee in an amount applicable to the noninsured crop disaster assistance program fee or catastrophic risk protection plan fee by no later than **September 16, 2008**.

***DEADLINES – DEADLINES – DEADLINES***

**NAP applicants must file a notice of loss within 15 Days after a Disaster Event is apparent.**

**Continuous CRP – no deadline – apply any time – for an explanation of the program call us.**

**2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program no deadline yet**

**Aug –DCP advanced payments can start being issued once contracts are approved**

**Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring seeded crop and perennial crop report deadline**

**Sep. 16<sup>th</sup> – Last day to pay disaster ‘buy-in’ fee**

**Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> – Last day to sign up for DCP**

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Extended 2009 NAP deadline for crops with NAP deadlines prior to December 1**

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – 2009 NAP deadline for many perennial crops such as orchards**

**Remember to let us know about your bank account changes or changes in your farm operating plan (CCC-502)**



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