



October 2009

Butte County FSA News

**U.S. Department
Of
Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**
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Voice (530) 534-0112
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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
Teresa Blackson
Brenda Richter

CA State Appraiser
David Widlund

Farm Loan Manager
Tom Roberts



Final Payments System Changed for 2009 DCP

All payments for the nation now go through a national payment process. The employees in the field have little control over when these payments are issued. Software problems are getting fixed, however some payments could be delayed. Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime in early November. If you are getting a check, they are mailed from Kansas City and take 7-10 days after they are mailed.

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 (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 83.3% percent of the farm’s base acreage times (x) the farm’s direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

The payment statement you receive from Kansas City has 2 reference numbers. The one in the upper right is the farm number and the other is a tracking #. The amount deposited in your bank is the bottom amount on the statement. The amount that has “Commodity Credit Corporation” by it represents your advanced payment in most cases.

2008 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Finally!!!

2008 LFP applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved.

We have called producers to set up an appointment. If you have not been called yet, call us and we will set up an appointment to assist you with signing up. We will be taking appointments for the 2009 LFP at a later date.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or

fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

- County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire. FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009.

For 2009 and subsequent years NAP purchase and an annual acreage report is required. Also, LFP signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

SURE Program Sign Up Finally!!!

Producers may call during the first week of November to set up an appointment to sign up. We will not be setting up appointments prior to this week. Please avoid calling until November, so we can be better prepared to assist you later. Some of our office staff received training in Sacramento.

2010 DCP Sign Up

You need to call to set up a time to sign up for 2010 DCP. The final deadline will be June 1, 2010. **There are no late file provisions.**

ELAP for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires caused by natural occurrence (for example, lightning.) You must have purchased NAP coverage to be eligible. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Losses due to drought are not eligible.

The two parts to the ELAP application are:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed until a notice of loss is submitted.

Signup for eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. **Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than December 10, 2009.** Application for payment for calendar year 2009 losses shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres

Physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives lost due to adverse weather, colony loss or natural occurrence are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. Physical losses will be compensated at 60 percent of the actual replacement cost of the honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many

farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and for those who care about them.

The **National Suicide Prevention Hotline** is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**. Your call will be routed to the nearest crisis center, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

Visit <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> for more information. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

County Committee Elections

It is election time for LAA1 located in the south part of Butte County (South of Butte City Road and south of the Middle Fork of the Feather River) Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year FSA completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations use the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating capital and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvan-

taged groups.

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Socially disadvantaged applicants are members of groups who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to their individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means 1) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; 2) responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and 3) title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan, even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in

the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Farm Loan Update - Raised Limits on Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. FSA also offers Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to \$1,112,000 (new maximum as of October 1, 2009.) Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Electronic Services Available

Producers with Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic service, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and an e-mail address. You can visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ to complete the online registration form. Note that you must also visit your FSA county office for identity verification.

For assistance establishing your account, contact your local USDA Service Center or your nearest FSA County Office.

USDA Farm Service
 Agency
 Butte County Office
 150 Chuck Yeager Way, #D
 Oroville, CA 95965-9215



Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.00%
Commodity Loans	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 12	Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 1	NAP Pasture, Hay, Honey
Dec 15	NAP Fruit & Nut Crops
Jan 1	NAP Oranges
Jan 15	NAP Apples

Rural Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. See your local FSA office for details

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