



January 2010

Butte County FSA News

**U.S. Department
Of
Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**
150 Chuck Yeager Way,
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Oroville, CA 95965-9215
Voice (530) 534-0112
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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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
Leslie Morgan

CA State Appraiser

David Widlund

Farm Loan Manager

Tom Roberts

SURE Signup

Call for an appointment!!!!

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 are for those who suffered crop production losses during the crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For

SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2010 DCP Signup

Everyone who receives a payment from the FSA for 2010, will have to sign the DCP contract by **June 1, 2010 or the ENTIRE farm does not get paid!** You can sign up any time between now and June 1st. **Make sure you call and schedule an appointment.** If you cash lease you must bring in your lease in order for us to run the contract.

New IRS Form

The USDA is working with IRS to confirm your adjusted gross income for 2009 and 2010. The forms are available at your local FSA office. Everyone has to turn this form into IRS by June 15th or payments you received for 2009 and/or 2010 are forfeited.

Marketing Assistance Loans

If you would like to put your crop under loan please call Teresa at extension 106 for an appointment.

Marketing Assistance Loans for crop years 2009 through 2012 are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the

commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) 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 Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

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

Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program

The Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program (DELAP) provides a one-time payment to assist dairy producers who have recently experienced low milk prices and high production costs.

No application to receive DELAP program benefits is required if a dairy operation or producer's records are currently available in a Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office from previous participation in a fiscal year 2009 dairy program administered by the agency. FSA will use existing production data maintained by the FSA county office for the months of February through July 2009 to calculate and issue payments.

Dairy producers who do not have production records at the FSA county office, and who have not been contacted to obtain such data for the months of February through July 2009, may apply to receive DELAP benefits during the 30-day application period beginning Dec. 17, 2009. The deadline to submit requests for DELAP program benefits is January 19, 2010.

FSA will calculate payments based on each qualifying dairy operation's total pounds of production commercially marketed during the months of February 2009 through July 2009, multiplied by two, up to six million pounds per dairy operation. A national per hundredweight payment rate will be calculated by dividing the available funding of \$290 million, less a reserve established by FSA, by the total pounds of eligible production approved for payment.

Payments to eligible dairy producers will be

calculated by multiplying the established payment rate by the dairy producer's share of the dairy operation's eligible production payment quantity.

DELAP eligibility requirements are available at the county office or on line at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/delap09.pdf.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Joshua Sheppard. He was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA 1 on the county committee. Josh was elected to his 3rd consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Joshua Sheppard — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Nannette Walker — 1st alternate to COC,
Hamanjit Gosal — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

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 especially 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 crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and

confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information

Bank and Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you have if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

FSA Signature Policy

For FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest, husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

Foreign Buyers 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. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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



Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	2.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
Jan 1, 2010	New Committee members take office
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
Jan. 19, 2010	Deadline for DELAP applications
Jan 29, 2010	LDP on Unshorn Lamb Pelts Closes
April 30, 2010	Wheat, Barley & Oat Crop Report Deadline
June 1, 2010	DCP Contract Deadline
June 15, 2010	IRS form deadline for all producers (FSA-927 and/or FSA-928)
July 15, 2010	Spring seeded crop report deadline

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."