



FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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
 Teresa Blackson
 Brenda Richter

CA State Appraiser
 David Widlund

Farm Loan Manager
 Katherine Lewis

Office Closed:
 Columbus Day:
 October 11



September 2010

Butte County FSA News

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not be eligible for the 2008 SURE program.

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.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, 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.

ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those

producers who suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions

For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

Assistance for Asparagus and Catfish Producers – Sept. 23 Deadline

Asparagus and catfish producers and those who shared in the risk of production for those agricultural products in 2009 may now be eligible for assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The deadline for application is September 23, 2010.

2010 Rice Loans

It is that time again. Producers growing an eligible commodity such as rice are eligible for a 9 month loan using the crop as collateral. Producer's can apply for a loan on an eligible commodity stored on the farm or stored in an approved warehouse. The producer must have control of the commodity:

- 1) Moving or right to sell or pass title to the commodity
- 2) Pledging the commodity for loan. The loan process will be about the same this year with a couple of changes:
 - 1) Producers must request the loan during the same month they get their warehouse receipt because of the prepaid storage requirement
 - 2) The producers name on their receipt must match FSA records. Example: If the producer farms as John & Jan Doe then both names must be on the warehouse receipt or you can get two warehouse receipts one with each person's name on them.

COC Election

The following producers have been approved for the election for the northern area LAA 2: Ed Oviedo, John Nock and Roy Roney. Ballots will be sent out after 11/5/10 and the final date to return the ballots is 12/6/10.

Kids & Farm Safety

The need for farm safety awareness for children does not diminish after they return to school. Fall harvest and work with livestock still exposes kids to risks on evenings and weekends. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids recommends the following protection when dealing with grain, ATVs and livestock:

- Always lock access doors to grain storage structures.
- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Always use the buddy system when you are unloading or loading grain, notifying a second person where you are.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Always know where ALL family members are (especially children) at all times when grain is being loaded, unloaded, moved or otherwise handled.

ATV drivers: No matter what function the ATV performs, remember that it is only as capable as the operator.

Chores involving livestock care and handling are often one of the first responsibilities given to children, increasing their exposure to the dangers at an early age.

When working around animals encourage your children to:

- Be calm, move slowly, and avoid loud noises
- Wear steel toed shoes
- Avoid the hind legs of the animal
- Approach large animals at the shoulder
- Children should avoid animals with newborns
- Children should avoid stallions, bulls, rams, and boars
- Always have an escape route when working with animals in close quarters
- Wear helmets when riding horses.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Partici-

pants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodi-

ty, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. Contact your nearest FSA office for specific deadlines.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted 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.

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

Producers with 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, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail and other natural causes.

For more information and specific NAP crop deadlines, contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Rural Youth Loans

The 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. Loan requirements are:

- US citizenship or legal resident alien status
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Compliance with FSA general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town (population 50,000 or less)
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Ability to conduct a modest income-

producing project in a supervised program of work.

- Demonstrate a capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help answer questions about eligibility for projects you may propose and about general program requirements.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. 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 more information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Feds, Farmers & Friends Feed Families FSA Food Drive

We are encouraging farmers to participate in our drive and drop off food items to our office. We are planning to continue the drive through the end of the month, however donations are always welcomed. We are donating the food to the Food Bank in Oroville at 2640 S 5th Ave. Their phone number is 538-7534 ext. 215. Thank you for your participation.

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 Butte County Office
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 Oroville, CA 95965-9215



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Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	2.250- 3.125%
2010 Rice Commodity Loans	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 23	TAA Asparagus / Catfish Program Deadline
Sept 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Sept 30	SURE Application Deadline
Dec 1	NAP deadline for all hay & pasture (range included)
Dec 1	NAP deadline for Honey
Dec 15	NAP deadline for fruits, nuts & olives except citrus
Jan 1	NAP deadline for citrus
Mar 1	NAP deadline for row crops including wild rice

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