



Butte County FSA Office

Robert Maurer, County Executive Director
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Oroville, CA 95965

(530) 534-0112 phone
(530) 533-4936 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

Hours

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

Butte County Staff

Shän Bertapelle
Teresa Blackson
Brenda Richter

CA State Appraiser
David Widlund

Farm Loan Manager
Katherine Lewis

County Committee:

Joshua Sheppard-Chair
Gregory Stephens-Vice Chair
Roy Roney-Member
Ed Oviedo-Advisor

Office Closed:

Memorial Day:
May 30, 2011

Independence Day:
July 4, 2011

2011 FSA COC Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees (COC) is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

Election Period

- **June 15, 2011**
COC nomination period begins.
- **Aug. 1, 2011**
COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center
- **Nov. 4, 2011**
COC ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Dec. 5, 2011**
Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center
- **Jan. 2, 2012**
Newly elected COC members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility, contact FSA.

Farming Converted Wetlands, Converting Wetlands to Cropland or Converting Non Cropland to Cropland

Producers should consider checking with NRCS before converting or farming converted wetlands or non-cropland. Producers could lose program benefits. Producers who have questions, please contact FSA or NRCS.

ACRE Requirements

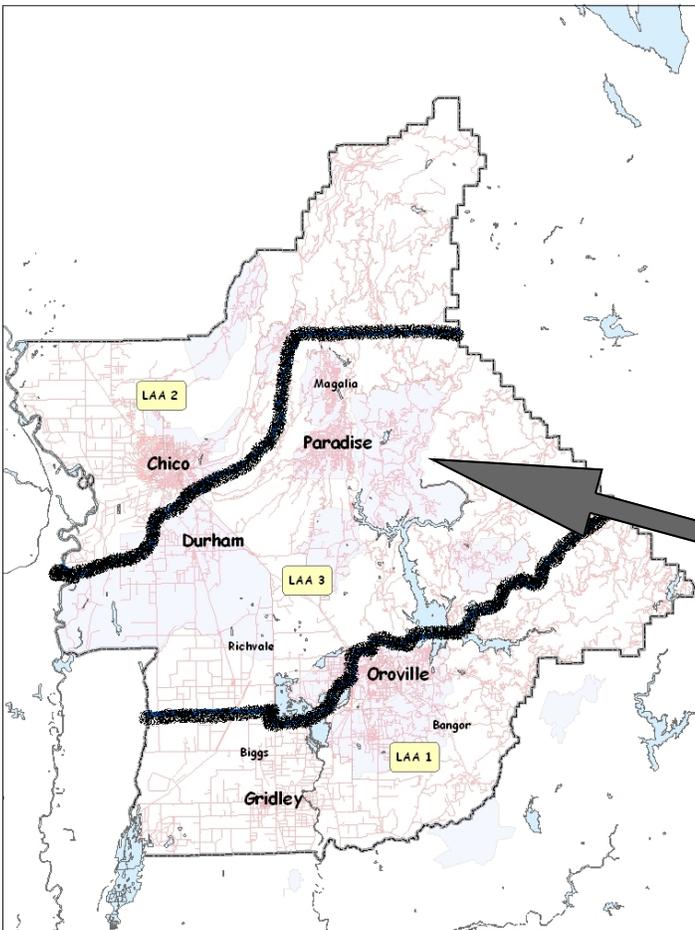
The deadline to elect and enroll in the ACRE Program is June 1st of the program year. If elected in a previous year, producers must enroll the farm in the ACRE Program by June 1st to receive payments. Farms that elect the ACRE Program cannot receive CC payments.

Producers on participating ACRE Program farms must annually report acreage and production to FSA. For the first year, you are required to report the previous 5 years of production. It is required to be reported by tract. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility. Production reports are due by the acreage report date for the subsequent year.

The farm ACRE guarantee calculation requires that producers report their per acre producer-paid crop insurance premium. A CCC-538 is required to collect this information. The amount of the premium recorded on CCC-538 shall not include the State or Federal subsidized portion of the premium. Payments will not be calculated until a CCC-538 is completed and submitted to the county office.

2009 SURE SIGN-UP

The sign up period is now through July 29, 2011. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. Acreage reports are required for eligibility.



LAA 3 County Committee Position is up for Election

Producers who live in LAA 3 are eligible to be nominated, and serve on the Butte County Committee. If you live in LAA3, please consider being nominated. If you are interested, call or come by the office to complete a FSA-669A nomination form. North and south LAA 3 boundaries are indicated on the map.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process

www.farmerclaims.gov or

1-888-508-4429

Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation

www.blackfarmercase.com or

1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement

www.IndianFarmClass.com or

1-888-233-5506

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Acreage Report Deadline July 15

Producers are required to file acreage reports by July 15, 2011 for all crops. Exception: January 31st for honey, April 30th for wheat, barley and oats. Acreage reports are required for participating in most FSA programs.

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

AGI and the IRS

Participants in CCC programs are subject to average AGI rules and must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15th to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with credit to meet their business needs. Farmers having trouble obtaining financing have both direct and guaranteed loan options.

Farmers who have had a setback and whose lenders are reluctant to extend or renew credit can ask their lender if they qualify for an FSA loan guarantee

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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner prior to production credit needs.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

| Selected Interest Rates for May 2011 | |
|---|-------------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 2.625% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 5.000% |
| Conservation Loan | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500% |
| Emergency | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 2.75-3.625% |
| Commodity Loans 1996 - Present | 2.25% |

| Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 15 days after occurrence | Notice of loss due to damaging weather |
| April 30 | Wheat, Barley, Oat acreage reports |
| June 1 | Deadline - Farm Record Changes |
| June 1 | 2011 ACRE Signup Ends |
| June 1 | 2011 DCP Enrollment Ends |
| July 15 | Acreage reports for all other crops, including orchards, range & row crops |
| July 15 | Deadline to provide NAP production records for 2010 |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.