



# Fresno County FSA News

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## Fresno County USDA Service Center

**Fresno County FSA**  
4625 W. Jennifer  
Fresno, CA 93722  
559-276-7494 (phone)  
559-276-1791 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/\*\*

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee:**  
Jean Errotabere  
Richard Carstens  
Carl Buxman

**County Committee  
Advisors:**  
Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka  
Will Scott Jr.  
Chalee Xiong

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month

**Farm Loan Staff**  
LaVon Treasure, FLM  
Chantal Haun, FLO  
Phoua Yang  
Deanna Martin

**Farm Program Staff**  
Darci Cullers, COT  
Mildred Jones  
Bee Payne  
Christy Villas  
Wanda Medina  
Chris San Nicolas  
Nangpay Vang  
Annie Lee  
Lindsey Mastropolito  
Sarah Wenter  
Darrin Monterio  
Joni Worley, HACU Intern

County Executive Director  
Russ Friend

## Sign-Up Underway for 2009 DCP

**Producers have until August 14, 2009 to sign up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP).** Fresno County FSA is currently accepting appointments for the DCP program. If you have not enrolled for 2009, please call the Fresno FSA office to schedule your appointment.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

**All new eligibility forms are required for the 2009 crop year, as mandated by the 2008-2012 Farm Bill**

## Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved for Disaster Assistance Programs

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through **May 18, 2009**, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Producers who have already purchased crop insurance or NAP coverage for **ALL** their crops for the 2008 crop year; or have filed the necessary paperwork and paid the administrative fee for the summer Buy-in, need not apply again. For those who did not, they are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009 in order to be eligible to participate in any 2008 disaster assistance programs:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each non-insurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee, however, you must still file the appropriate forms.

### MILC Sign-Up Underway

Signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) is underway and will continue through the program's expiration date, Sept. 30, 2012.

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes the MILC Program, which operates similarly to the counter-cyclical payment program for crops, and makes three key changes in program operation. Under the Farm Bill, the MILC payment rate and the per-operation poundage limit are modified, depending on when the milk is produced. In addition, a "feed cost adjuster," is introduced over the life of the 2008 Act, which adjusts the \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt.) benchmark price upward depending on the cost of feed rations. When available, MILC payments are based on a payment rate percentage that is multiplied by the difference between a now-flexible target (\$16.94 per cwt. or higher) and the specific month's Boston Class I price of milk.

The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the provisions for payment eligibility and adjusted gross income (AGI). If the individual or entity has non-farm AGI greater than \$500,000, the individual or entity is not eligible for MILC benefits. For more information on the MILC program, contact Bee Payne.

### NAP Coverage 2010

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 by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

**PLEASE CONTACT FSA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT NAP.**

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- Notifying FSA within **15 days** of damaging weather event, or within **15 days** of the crop damage becoming apparent.
- Notifying FSA prior to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.

| Crop year 2010  | Application Closing Date |
|---|--------------------------|
| Multi Planting-Green Beans  | 8/1/2009                 |
| All other annuals   | 3/1/2010                 |
| Asparagus, Avocados, Cranberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Olives, Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Rye Grain, Strawberries | 12/15/2009               |
| Onions, Honey   | 12/1/2009                |
| Sugar Pea Tips  | 9/1/2009                 |
| Fall planted Garlic   | 10/1/2009                |
| Forage crops/Native pasture   | 9/1/2009                 |

**\*Please call the FSA office to check on other crop application closing dates.**

### NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated 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. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

**All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

### Timely Filing of NAP Loss

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 a 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.

### The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program from the program year elected by the producer through the **2012** crop year. For more details contact your local FSA office.

### Acreage/Crop Certifications

The FSA office is currently accepting crop maps for Fall and Spring seeded crops. The deadline for Fall crops is **April 30, 2009**; and Spring crops is **July 15, 2009**. A late fee will be charged for crop maps turned in after these dates.

### Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order 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 account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

### Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following situations (but not limited to) may require a recon on your farm:

- (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred;
- (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons;
- (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons;
- (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred;
- (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or
- (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons;
- (7) ownership has changed from individuals to a Trust

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by **August 1, 2009**.

**If a farm must go through a Recon, crop maps are still required to be turned in before the deadline dates.**



| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| April 30, 2009    | Fall seeded crop must be certified. Send your crop map to FSA and include planting dates, intended use and variety.    |
| May 18, 2009      | Buy-In Wavier Extension for Disaster Assistance Programs Deadline  |
| May 25, 2009      | FSA office closed-Memorial Day   |
| July 15, 2009     | Spring seeded crops must be certified. Send your crop map to FSA and include planting dates, intended use and variety. |
| August 1, 2009    | Reconstitution Deadline  |
| August 14, 2009   | DCP & ACRE sign up Deadline  |

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