



July/August 2009

# Fresno County FSA News

## 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  
Annie Lee  
Lindsey Mastropolitto  
Sarah Wenter  
Darrin Monterio  
Liz Anguiano

County Executive Director  
Russ Friend

## Sign-Up Underway for 2009 DCP/ACRE

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

FSA computes DCP Program 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. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The new ACRE Program is an option for eligible DCP farms that allows participants to receive additional payments base on crop revenue reductions instead of only low national prices. Revenue considers both yields and prices, so the reductions can be attributed to low yields and/or low prices. Note that there must be both a revenue reduction for the farm and at least a 10% revenue reduction for the State. See page 2 for further information on ACRE.

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

## FSA County Committee Nomination Deadline

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Right now, producers can have an impact on the election of the county committee by nominating eligible candidates by the August 3, 2009, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the Fresno FSA office by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009. **This year the election is for Local Administrative Area 3, which includes all farmers and ranchers living east of Highway 99 in Fresno County.**

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Call Russ Friend at 276-7494 ext. 2 if you have questions about the County Committee nomination process.

### 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 the Fresno FSA office. **Sign up deadline for ACRE is August 14, 2009.**

### 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 must be filed by **August 1, 2009.**

### FSA Farm Loans Available

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 elsewhere. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify

for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers may have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or may have 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 \$1,094,000. 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 details on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

### FSA Farm Loans for the 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 type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

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

If producers or their spouses believe they would 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.

**Contact the Farm Loan Team in Fresno if you have questions.**



Dates to Remember	
July 15, 2009	Spring seeded crop must be certified. Send your crop map to FSA and include planting dates, intended use and variety.
August 1, 2009	Reconstitution Deadline
August 3, 2009	County Committee Nomination Deadline
August 14, 2009	DCP & ACRE Sign Up Deadline
Various Dates	See page 2 for various NAP insurance purchase deadlines
Sept. 7, 2009	FSA office closed-Labor Day

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