



October/November 2009

Fresno County FSA News

USDA Service Center

Fresno County FSA
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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
2nd Thursday of the Month

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

Farm Program Staff
Darci Cullers, COT
Lance Carter, COT
Mildred Jones
Bee Payne
Christy Villas
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Annie Lee
Darrin Monterio
Liz Anguiano
Rosalva Chavez
Joni Worley

County Executive Director
Russ Friend

Sign-Up Underway for 2008 and 2009 Livestock Forage Program

Fresno FSA is accepting applications for the 2008 and 2009 Livestock Forage Program (LFP). LFP is provided to assist livestock producers who suffered losses due to drought on native pasture in the foothills of eastern and western Fresno County. Eligible producers must have had purchased the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) insurance for 2008, or paid the \$100 eligibility buy in fee for 2008 during the summer of 2008. For 2009, producers must have purchased NAP coverage to be considered eligible. Filing deadline for the 2008 year is December 10, 2009. For the 2009 year, the filing deadline is January 30, 2010. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved. Please call the FSA office to schedule your appointment.

FSA County Committee Election

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the FSA office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Elected members serve a term of three years and are elected from within the 3 separate Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAA 3, which covers all farms east of Highway 99 in Fresno County, is holding the election this year. The two candidates seeking elections are:

Carl Buxman is a Reedley area tree fruit grower who has been farming more than 30 years. Mr. Buxman currently serves on the FSA County Committee.

Benjamin Ramirez III, is a Sanger area farmer who and raises poultry and livestock. Mr. Ramirez has been farming since 2006.

Ballots will be mailed around November 5 to eligible voters living east of Highway 99 and must be received at the Fresno FSA office by December 4, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees.

2008 Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up

The 2008 Farm Bill created several permanent disaster programs, one of which is the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). SURE is a total farm revenue crop disaster program, with payments provided based upon 60% of the difference between the SURE program guarantee and the total farm revenue. To be eligible to receive SURE benefits, producers must have had Federal crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops on the farm. Because the Farm Bill was passed in June of 2008, and most crop insurance purchase deadlines had passed, producers who had not purchased insurance for all of their crops were allowed to "buy in" eligibility during the summer of 2008 and the spring of 2009. SURE sign-up is expected to begin in mid November. Producers seeking SURE benefits are required to provide production evidence for **all** crops grown in 2008 on **all** farms, including farms in counties outside of Fresno County. Call the Fresno FSA office to schedule your appointment.

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
Sugar Pea Tips	9/1/2009
Fall planted Garlic	10/1/2009
Onions, Honey	12/1/2009
Forage crops/Native pasture	12/1/2009

***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 and verifiable. Producers should submit 2010 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.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office staff, the RMA office, or the USDA Office of the Inspector General.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Acresage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year FSA completes spot checks of acresage reports. Acresage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acresage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acresage reports in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acresage determinations use the FSA Geographic Information System official acresages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acresage will be sent to the farm operator. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Farm Loan Update - Raised Limits on Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency 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. FSA also offers

Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to \$1,112,000 (new maximum as of October 1, 2009.) 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 just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Rural Youth Loans

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. See your local FSA office for details

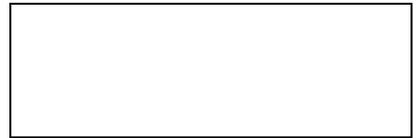
Cash Rent Tenant Rule

In order to receive payments subject to the cash rent tenant rule, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, producers who cash rent land must provide a significant contribution of either of the following:

- Active personal labor, **or**
- Equipment and active personal management.

Note: If equipment and labor come from the same source, then there must be two separate contracts at fair market value AND the producer must have COMPLETE control of the equipment for the crop year.

Example: A cash-rent tenant leases equipment and labor from the same source for only a portion of the year and does not provide any active personal labor. In this situation, the cash-rent tenant does not meet the cash-rent tenant provision because the producer does not have complete control of the equipment for the entire crop year.



Important Dates	
December 4, 2009	Final date to submit County Committee Election Ballot to FSA office
December 10, 2009	Deadline to signup for the 2008 Livestock Forage Program
January 29, 2010	Deadline to signup for the 2009 Livestock Forage Program
April 30, 2010	Fall seeded crop must be reported. Send your crop map to FSA and include planting dates, intended use and variety.
Various Dates	See page 2 for various NAP insurance purchase deadlines

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