



Fresno County FSA News

Fresno County USDA Service Center

Fresno County FSA
4625 W. Jennifer
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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:**
Will Scott Jr.
Chalee Xiong
Lakhvir Sran

County Committee meets
2nd Thursday of the month

Farm Loan Staff
LaVon Treasure, FLM
Chantal Haun, FLO
Tou Thao, FLOT
Phoua Yang
Rosalva Chavez

Farm Program Staff
Mildred Jones
Bee Payne
Christy Villas
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Annie Lee
Lindsey Mastropolito
Darrin Monteiro, COT

County Executive Director
Russ Friend

Sign-Up for 2010 DCP ends June 1, 2010

Producers have until June 1, 2010 to sign up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment program (DCP). Fresno County FSA is currently accepting appointments for the DCP program. If you have not enrolled for 2010, 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, 2010. 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).

Sign-Up Underway for 2010 ACRE ends June 1, 2010

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office.

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, 2010, 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 click County Committee Elections. **This year the election is for Local Administrative Area 2, which includes all farmers and ranchers living west of Highway 99 and east of the Fresno Slough 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 2011

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 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.

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 2011	Application Closing Date
Multi Planting-Green Beans	8/1/2010
All other annuals	3/1/2011
Asparagus, Avocados, Cranberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Olives, Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Rye Grain, Strawberries	12/15/2010
Onions, Honey	12/1/2010
Sugar Pea Tips	9/1/2010
Fall planted Garlic	10/1/2010
Forage crops/Native pasture	9/1/2010

***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.

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.

SURE Disaster Program Signup

Signup is underway for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for the 2008 crop year. 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 not 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.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions may trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or

more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm

- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: www.fsa.usda.gov. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online. Call the FSA office to schedule your appointment.

Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation

Payments and benefits under certain programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- Payment limitation by direct attribution
- Payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- Actively engaged in farming requirements
- Cash-rent tenant rule
- Foreign person rule average AGI limitations
- No program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:
 1. All required forms for the specific situation are provided
 2. Necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made
- Payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by the producer.
- A farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually unless changes are made to the operation
- If any changes occur, producers must timely notify FSA by filing revised farm operating plans. Failure to timely notify FSA may

adversely affect payment eligibility.

- Entities must provide names, addresses and TIN's of the entities' members.
- Noncompliance with AGI provisions will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to AGI provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible person or legal entity in any legal entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average AGI limitation.

Crop Certification Deadline is July 15, 2010

All spring planted and permanent crops must be certified with the FSA office by July 15, 2010. Please send a crop map with planting dates, variety and intended use to the FSA office. Many FSA programs require timely crop certification as a requirement for receiving benefits.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Signup

Signup is underway for the TAP program. TAP provides assistance to growers of trees or vines who suffered lost trees or vines due to a recognized natural disaster such as excessive wind or freeze. Losses must be in excess of 15% mortality (adjusted for normal tree mortality or damage). **Producers' who suffered losses between Jan 1, 2008 and May 7, 2010 have until July 6, 2010 to enroll in the TAP program.** Producers who suffer losses after May 7, 2010 must apply within 90 days of the disaster date or when the loss becomes apparent. To be eligible, producers must have had crop insurance or NAP coverage for all crops grown in all counties, and meet AGI and other payment eligibility requirements. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers are exempt from the requirement to purchase crop insurance or NAP. Please call the FSA office to schedule an appointment to file Form FSA-899 Tree Assistance Program application for Trees, Bushes and Vines.



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
 PERMIT # 22**

Dates to Remember	
May 31, 2010	FSA office closed for Memorial Day
June 1, 2010	DCP and ACRE signup deadline. See page 1.
June 16, 2010	Deadline to file form CCC-927 and/or form CCC-928 - "2009 and/or 2010 Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for an Individual or Entity". This form must be mailed To: IRS USDA - PO BOX 23033, Fresno, CA 93779
July 6, 20210	TAP application deadline. See page 3.
July 15, 2009	Spring seeded crops must be certified. Send your crop map to FSA and include planting dates, intended use and variety. See page 3.
Various dates	NAP crop insurance purchase deadlines vary by crop. See page 2.
August 2, 2010	Last day to file nomination form for County Committee elections. See page 1

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