



Fresno County FSA News

Assistance for Asparagus and Catfish Producers

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) assists eligible producers of asparagus, catfish and shrimp who experienced a decline in their product sales due to imports. The program focuses on technical and business adjustment training in two stages, including a \$4,000 benefit for developing an initial business plan and a \$8,000 benefit for a long-term business adjustment plan.

Applications must be received by September 23, 2010. Sales receipts of total production are required to show either lower production in 2009 or lower price received in 2009. Applicants must show they produced or shared in the risk of producing the crop in 2009 and in three years prior to 2009. For details, contact the Fresno FSA office.

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:

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, SCEP

Farm Program Staff

Mildred Jones
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Keith Davis
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County Executive Director
Russ Friend

Durum Wheat Program

The Farm Service Agency is currently taking applications for the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP). The program will partially compensate producers for the costs associated with fungicide application on 2010 durum wheat. This compensation is for durum growers that fought Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) which is commonly called wheat scab.

Durum producers have until September 15, 2010, to apply for fungicide application reimbursement under the DWQP program. The fungicide payment rate for the chemical will be established by the FSA National Office. The reimbursement rate for the cost of application will be set by the California State FSA Committee.

Producers can prepare for DWQP signup by gathering their 2010 fungicide bills that document the Fusarium fighting efforts. Please contact Fresno FSA for more information about this program.

Preventing Fraud

The FSA supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA assists RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA assists RMA by doing growing season spot checks on the insured corps of producers identified by RMA as having higher than normal claim activity or other RMA concerns. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office.

MILC Start Month Changes

Dairy producers who have a MILC contract are reminded that if you wish to change the start month of your contract, you must do so on or before the 14th of the month prior to the month originally selected and before the 14th of the newly selected start month. For example, if your current start month is December 2010 and you want your new start month to be October 2010, you must file form CCC-580M no later than the 14th of September, 2010. Forms are available from the Fresno FSA office or on the web at <http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>. Please contact the Fresno FSA office if you have any questions about the MILC program.

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 NAP 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.

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 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.

**2008 SURE Disaster Program
Signup ends Sept 30, 2010**

Signup is underway for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for the **2008 crop year and will end on Sept 30, 2010**. 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.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing small grains and cotton crops. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger procedures, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future commodity loans.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) may also be available in lieu of Market Loans for small grains and cotton. LDP rates for grains are posted daily and cotton rates are posted weekly online at www.fsa.usda.gov. You may also call the Fresno FSA office to check LDP rates and have your other price support questions answered.



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Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

	Dates to Remember
September 6	FSA office closed for Labor Day
September 23	Deadline to apply for the Trade Assistance Program for Asparagus
September 30	Deadline to apply for crop year 2008 SURE Disaster Program
90 Days after Damage occurs	TAP signup deadline see page 2
Various dates	NAP crop insurance purchase deadlines vary by crop. See page 2.

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