



Fresno County FSA

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Hours

Monday—Friday
7:30 am—4:30 pm
www.fsa.usda.gov/

County Committee:

Jean Errotabere
Richard Carstens
Carl Buxman

County Committee

Advisors:
Will Scott Jr.
May Thou

County Committee
meets 2nd Thursday of
the month as necessary

Farm Loan Staff

LaVon Treasure, FLM
Chantal Haun, FLO
Tou Thao, FLOT
Phoua Yang

Farm Program Staff

Bee Payne
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Annie Lee
Valerie Garcia
Nangpay Vang, Chief
Program Technician

Executive Director
Russ Friend

DCP/Acre Signup by June 1

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the ACRE program will continue through June 1, 2012. DCP Program payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. No advance payments will be made for 2012. Final payments will be issued in October 2012.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30%. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

2010 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. Producers seeking SURE benefits are required to provide production evidence for all crops grown in 2010 on all farms, including farms in counties outside of Fresno County. Since Fresno County was not declared a federal disaster area for 2010, eligible producers must have suffered a total farm production loss of 50% or more. **Signup deadline has not been announced, but usually is in late spring. There are no late filed provisions.**

THIS IS YOUR FINAL PAPER NEWSLETTER!

Due to federal budget constraints, the Farm Service Agency will no longer be sending paper newsletters to you through the mail. To continue to receive important FSA program information, requirements and deadlines, you must register your e-mail address with us so we can send your newsletters electronically. You may provide your email address to us by calling our office, or Producers can enroll in the new GovDelivery system which provides instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters directly to your email address.

County Committee election ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. **Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.** Call Fresno FSA if you have questions.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the requirements of being 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply: at least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management and the total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. This to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. In addition, for 2012 there is an additional limit of not exceeding \$1,000,000 in combined farm and nonfarm income that applies to DCP participants.

Participants in CCC programs subject to AGI rules must submit form CCC -931 to the Fresno FSA office. These forms may be obtained from FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

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.

COC Election Nomination

August 1 is the final day for eligible producers to submit COC nomination form FSA-669A. This year, the eligible voters who live east of Highway 99 in Fresno County will elect their County Committee representative to serve a 3 year term. Elections are held in November and the elected representative will begin serving in January of 2013. Additional information and form FSA-669A can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans may be available. FSA farm loan employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. Contact the Fresno FSA Farm Loan team for more information.

NAP Coverage 2013

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 2012 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2013, 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 timely file acreage reports, provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc. Producers must notify FSA within **15 days** of damaging weather event, or within **15 days** of the crop damage becoming apparent and notify FSA **prior** to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.

Call FSA if you have questions on closing dates.

Crop Year 2013	Application closing date
Multi-planting green beans	8/01/2012
All Other Annuals	3/01/2013
Asparagus, Avocados, Cranberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Olives, Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Rye Grain, Strawberries	12/15/2012
Onions, Honey	12/01/2012
Sugar Pea Tips	9/1/2012
Fall planted Garlic	10/01/2012
Forage and Native Pasture	12/01/2012



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 2011 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

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

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

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

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

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

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time is here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the April 30 deadline on small grains and the July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Failure to report crop acreage timely will result in late filed acreage report fees and penalties. Send your crop map to the Fresno FSA and include crop type, intended use, planting date and tree numbers and spacing.

NAP acreage reporting dates vary by crop. Call Nangpay Vang at the Fresno FSA office for more details.

Important Dates and Information to Remember

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April 30, 2012	Fall seeded crop certification deadline
May 28, 2012	Office Closed Memorial Day
June 1, 2012	2012 DCP/ACRE Program Signup Ends
July 4, 2012	Office Closed Independence Day
July 15, 2012	Spring seeded and permanent crop certification deadline
August 1, 2012	Final day to submit COC election nominations
Various	Report NAP crop damage within 15 days of weather event
Various	NAP crop acreage reporting deadline varies, contact the office
Various	NAP application closing dates see page 3
COC Election Information	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections

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