



December 2011  
Issue 3

**Humboldt/Del Norte  
County  
Farm Service Agency**

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**Hours**

Monday—Friday  
8:00 am—4:30 pm

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**Farm Loan Officer  
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**Farm Loan Technician**

**County Committee**

Peter Bussman, Chair  
Joey Borges, Vice Chair  
Patrick Fulton  
Richard Wetherell  
Gary Belli  
Kara Miller, Advisor

**Website**

[www.fsa.usda.gov/CA](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CA)

## Farm Service Agency Youth Loans: *Helping Rural Youth Accomplish their Goals*



Teen, Jake Bones of Rio Dell handles Gweldolyn, his new Boer doe, purchased with help from the Farm Service Agency.

Jake obtained a loan from the Farm Service Agency in August to purchase a registered, bred yearling Boer doe. She will kid (give birth) in December and he hopes she will have 2 healthy kids (baby goats). Depending on the sex of the kids will depend on what he does with them. "If they are female kids I will keep them and show them. If they are males, I will sell them as project market animals for 4-H and FFA, and maybe take one of them myself." Jake explains. He purchased the doe from *Gold Country Boers* in Lincoln, CA. Gwendolyn, her registered name, joins Catalina, his 4-year old Boer doe who is also expecting in December. Jake hopes to use the proceeds from the sale of the kids to expand his 4-H market project to a steer next year and to possibly buy more breeding does.

Jake had a very successful year with his 4-H and FFA projects. At the 2011 Humboldt County fair Jake entered vegetables, floral arrangements, photography, and showed chickens, meat and dairy goats. With Catalina he placed 3rd out of 7 in his class.

Jakes accomplishments and involvement in his community are very impressive. President of the freshman class at Fortuna High School, he is also

President of the Hydesville 4-H club and is a member of the Fortuna FFA. He is a local 4-H All-Star, winning the Presidential Community Service Award for growing a community garden and donating the vegetables to seniors and low-income families. Last Winter, with help from his father he was in charge of an Extreme Weather Shelter for 30 homeless individuals. Along with all this he maintains a 4.0 grade point average. When asked what his future plans are he claims he doesn't know, but would really like to go to UC Davis.

The 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.

**Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan and provide adequate supervision.

**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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- 1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- 2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
  - Ownership changes
  - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - Change in crop shares arrangements
- 3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election have been mailed. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight **Dec. 5, 2011**.

**Voter Requirements** - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

## Online Services

Producers with Internet access can fill out a variety of FSA forms online. Producers can also register for secure electronic access that will allow them to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link. If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button. Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm

revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops.
- Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency 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 are used in farm program computations.

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

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

## Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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. For additional information contact:

### Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims

**Process:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)  
or call 1-888-508-4429.

### Pigford – Black Farmers Discrimination

**Litigation:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)  
or call 1-866-950-5547.

### Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com)  
or call 1-888-233-5506.

## Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and 2011 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information contact your local FSA office.

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers receive CCC-1099-Gs annually detailing payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help FSA customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the IRS.

*FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy of data.*

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.



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