



## October 2010

### Imperial County FSA Office

177 N. Imperial Ave  
El Centro CA 92243  
PH: 760 352 3531 XT2  
FAX: 760 352 9210  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

#### County Committee

Gary Mamer  
Curt Corda  
Craig Alameda  
Raul Rodriguez Jr.

#### County Executive Director -

Rosalinda Singh  
[rosa.singh@ca.usda.gov](mailto:rosa.singh@ca.usda.gov)

#### County Staff

Carmen Perez, PT  
[carmen.perez@ca.usda.gov](mailto:carmen.perez@ca.usda.gov)  
Julia Contreras, PT  
[julia.contreras@ca.usda.gov](mailto:julia.contreras@ca.usda.gov)

#### Farm Loan Manager -

Thomas Hunton  
(661) 336-0967 XT 116

#### Selected Interest Rates For November, 2010

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating-Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loan Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership, Direct Down Pmt, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

### 2011 DCP Signups Begin

Signups for the 2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) are under way and will continue through June 1, 2011. DCP payments are computed using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Producers can visit their FSA office to complete their 2011 DCP contracts. The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all DCP participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

### The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is an option for eligible DCP farms that allows participants to receive additional payments based on crop revenue reductions instead of only low national prices. Revenue considers both yields and prices, so the reductions can be attributed to low yields and/or low prices. Note that there must be both a revenue reduction for the farm and at least a 10% revenue reduction for the state.

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.

### Disaster Assistance Programs / Risk Management

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

### Voting for County Committee Begins Soon

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

This year's election will be in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 - That part of Imperial County north of Keystone Rd. Candidates are Raul Rodriguez Jr. and Stephen Benson. **Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):
  - a) an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or

*Continued on page 2: Voting*

*Continued from page 1: Voting*

b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper;

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of funding status.

**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.

### **CCC-927 or -928 Disclosure Form Needed by IRS**

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927: “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form”, or CCC-928: “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity”.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

### **NAP Deadline**

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the

filing dates for your crops and note that for some disaster assistance programs, crop insurance or NAP coverage is required for all crops on the farm.

### **Paper Check Conversion – Over The Counter (PCC-OTC)**

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers’ checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer’s account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. FSA/CCC will begin the PCC-OTC process in the coming months. Please visit the U.S. Department of Treasury internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>.

### **2011 Acreage Reporting Requirements**

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops/commodities and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acreage can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of USDA programs. 2011 Acreage reporting deadlines are March 15, 2011 for small grains and July 15, 2011 for all other crops. 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.

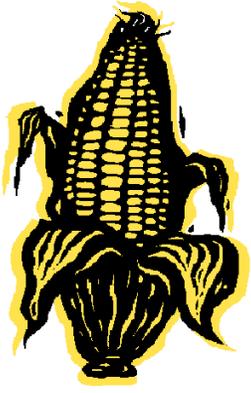
### **FSA Signature Policy**

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.





## New Financial Management Web Page Available

Producers who have level 2 e-Authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

*Note: Website use requires level 2 e-Authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...*

1. Go to [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov), complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the “Identity Proofing” process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver’s license

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. 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.

## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for

farms enrolled in DCP. If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Methods used for farm reconstitution are:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when 1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; 2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; 3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; 4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; 5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or 6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## Conservation Loan Program

FSA makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; installation of water conservation measures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more. **Contact Tom Hunton @ 661 336 0967 XT 116 for more info.**

Imperial County FSA Office  
 177 N. Imperial Ave  
 El Centro CA 92243



PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 DAVIS CA  
 PERMIT #22

**Civil Rights Complaint Process** – Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, DC 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice & TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice or 202 720 6382 (TDD)). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Appeal Process** – After an FSA official makes a decision on your request or application for USDA services, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, appellants have 3 choices-an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the Agency.

**Reasonable Accommodations** – Will be made, upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call this office @ 760 352 3531.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County Committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 6	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday
Jan. 1 2011	New Years Day Holiday
Mar. 15, 2011	Deadline to report Small Grains
June 1, 2011	DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline