



Kern County FSA News

County Executive Director

Joann Esser

District Director

Nathan Maragoni

County Committee

Albert John Ghilarducci – Chairperson

Ken Paul – Vice Chairperson

Ben Ansolabehere – Regular Member

Jeff Bowen – Regular Member

Catherine Fanucchi – Minority Advisor

Phone (661) 336-0967 – Fax (661) 336-0857

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August 14, 2009

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct & Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program 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. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statistically set below its target price.

The new ACRE program is an option for eligible DCP farms which 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.

Payment Limitation Reminder for 2009

The status date for change to an entity or joint operation will be based on how the entity or joint operation is structured as of June 1, 2009.

If the change became effective after June 1, 2009, the change(s) will become effective for the 2010 crop year.

Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2009 Crops

The certification form FSA-578, "Report of Acreage" must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In California, the producer certification deadline for all crops, **excluding** small grains, has been extended from July 15, 2009, until August 14, 2009.

The annual requirement of filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits from the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Loan Deficiency Payments.



IMPORTANT

Late Filed Report of Acreage

The County Committee may accept a late filed FSA-578 as timely filed when **ALL** of the following apply;

✓ The operator pays the cost of a farm visit and the costs of verification and determination of crop acreage.

✓ **PHYSICAL EXISTENCE OF THE LATE FILED CROP OR CROP RESIDUE FOR THE CROP YEAR BEING REPORTED EXISTS.**

✓ The crop's use can be verified.

✓ The crop's acreage for the specific year can be determined.

If the late filed acreage report is for any program other than establishing FAV history, NAP Actual Production History, first time, or CRP Cropping History, physical existence is required. If the physical existence no longer exists, program payments could be jeopardized and producers risk loss of benefits.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether

beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on;

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA-669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events /County Committee Elections.

August 3, 2009 – Last day to file nomination forms.

November 6, 2009 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 7, 2009 – Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

January 1, 2010 – Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election

- Reside in LAA in which a candidate

Has Not been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 3, 2009.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. No nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office which administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold."

Kern County will have two LAA's represented in the 2009 County Committee Election.

LAA 1 covers Buttonwillow; North to county line, South to Sierra Nevada foothills, East to Interstate 5, and West to Hwy 33 to intersection of Hwy 46, then North along Hwy 46 to county line.

LAA 4 covers the Tehachapi and Temblor Mountain ranges; North to county line, South to county line, East – East half to county line – West half along Hwy 46 to intersection of Hwy 33 then along Hwy 33 and West – East half along Hwy 65 and Hwy 58, along General Beale Rd to Sierra Nevada foothills – West half to county line.

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, 2009, deadline.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recon must be requested by **August 1**, for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

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 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 which 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.

NAP Insurance Service Fee Increase for 2009 & Continuing

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, published May 22, 2008, increased the administration service fee for NAP from;

- \$100 to \$250 per crop
- \$300 to \$750 per county
- \$900 to \$1875 per producer for all counties

2010 Application Closing Dates

All other annuals	3/1/10
Apples 1/31/	10
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts	
NOTE: Coverage no longer available for young trees.	
12/1	5/09
Fall Planted Garlic	10/1/09
Processed Onions, Honey	12/1/09
Fall Planted Seed Crops	8/1/09
Forage Crops/Permanent Pasture	12/1/09
Forage Crops, Intended Use of FG, Hay (Mechanically Harvested)	9/1/09
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	9/1/09
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/09
2011 Crop Year Citrus Crops;	
Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos	1/1/10

FSA Farm Loans.

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit elsewhere. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers may have sufficient setbacks from natural disasters or may have limited resources.

Eligible Emergency Farm Loans

Pursuant to President Bush's declaration of an emergency in California on November 18, 2008, USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses caused by wildfires, which occurred on November 13, 2008, and continuing are available.

The authorization for FSA to accept Emergency Loan Applications under this authorization **expires on July 20, 2009.**

Pursuant to the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs designation of a quarantine emergency in the state of California on December 23, 2008, USDA emergency farm loans because of production losses based on damage and losses caused by the Light Brown Apple Moth quarantine which began on May 2, 2007, are available.

The authorization for FSA to accept Emergency Loan Applications under this authorization **expires on August 23, 2009.**

Applications should be filed with the Kern County FSA Service Center at; 5000 California Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93309, or call Farm Loan Manager Tom Hupton at; (661) 336-0967 ext 116.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years

- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oil seed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- Dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must meet Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use
- Large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- Small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers who did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Successor in Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to the heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important FSA be notified. Entitlements and joint operations which participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Kern County FSA
5000 California Avenue #100
Bakersfield CA 93309-0711

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Since FSA benefits are reported to IRS, maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensure those payments are reported correctly.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought, and other factors have hurt many

farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask

for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273 TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture

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Dates to Remember:

Reconstitution Deadline	August 1, 2009
County Committee Nominations	August 3, 2009
Certification Deadline-Excluding Small Grains	August 14, 2009
DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline	August 14, 2009
MILC Signup	Continuing
NAP-Notice of Loss	Within 15 days of Natural Disaster Or Loss Becomes Apparent

FSAWEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov