



Kern County FSA News

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Vol. 2009 - No. 04-September 2009

Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. For drought, the losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a cropland specifically for grazing. The drought losses must also have occurred during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land in the county. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine. For losses due to drought, qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

2008 Calendar Year Losses begin filing applications September 14, 2009. Applications must be filed by December 14, 2009.

2009 Subsequent Years signup must file no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Example; for 2009, you must file an application by January 31, 2010. No late filed provisions apply for LFP.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires. Further detail on eligibility criteria is available at your local FSA office.

Assistance for producers through ELAP is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. These include LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to help fill the gap and provide assistance under other eligibility conditions determined to be appropriate.

Producers with eligible losses during 2008 & 2009 started signups beginning September 14, 2009.

Producers who suffered losses in Calendar year 2008, must provide a notice of loss and an application for payment in their administrative county office no later than December 14, 2009.

Producers who suffered eligible losses during January 1, 2009 through September 13, 2009, shall provide a notice of loss no later than December 14, 2009, and an application for payment no later than January 30, 2010.

There are no late provisions for ELAP.

For both LFP and ELAP, livestock or forage losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Note that there are assistance application deadlines for each crop year during that multi-year period. There is a total \$100,000 limitation per crop year that applies to payments received under ELAP, LFP, LIP or SURE. For the 2008 crop year, the \$100,000 limitation is per "person" as defined and determined under payment limitation rules in effect for 2008.

For crop years 2009 through 2011, the \$100,000 limitation applies to payments received, both directly and indirectly, by a person or legal entity. Furthermore, individuals or entities are ineligible for payment under ELAP or

LFP for 2008 if their average Adjusted Gross Income for 2005, 2006 and 2007 exceeds \$2.5 million. For 2009 through 2011, an average adjusted gross nonfarm income limitation of \$500,000 applies and is determined using the three taxable years that precede the most immediately preceding complete taxable year (for 2009, the applicable years are 2005, 2006 and 2007).

For more information or to apply for ELAP or LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please call your local USDA Service Center or FSA county office to schedule an appointment with a staff expert. General information can also be obtained on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities.

Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST

payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the products are delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact your FSA state office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

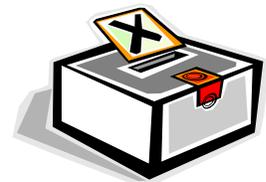
Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.



COC Nominating Closed, Voting Starts November 6

By now you should be aware the deadline for FSA county committee nominations has already passed on August 3, 2009.

Voting Begins November 6

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 6, and must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 7, or postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can 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 on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

AHORA ES EL TIEMPO PARA SOLICITAR FONDOS DE EQIP PARA 2010

Estamos aceptando solicitudes de productores agrícolas que desean participar en el **Programa de Incentivos para Calidad Ambiental (EQIP, sus siglas en Inglés)**. EQIP es un programa del **Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales (NRCS, sus siglas en Inglés)**. La última fecha que una solicitud puede ser considerado(a) para una evaluación será fijada antes de que se termine el año 2009. La fecha exacta será anunciada cuando el Departamento de Agricultura de EE.UU. (USDA sus siglas en Inglés) seleccione una fecha apropiada.

Los productores agrícolas o ganaderos que se interesen en EQIP pueden solicitar participar en el escritorio local de NRCS o Centro de Servicio del Departamento de Agricultura de EE.UU. (USDA Service Center). En el Condado de Kern, la oficina de NRCS está ubicada en el **5000 de la Avenida California en el Cuarto 100**. El número telefónico es el (661) 336-0967 Ext. 3.

NRCS va a evaluar cada solicitud y va a dar prioridad a aquellas solicitudes que usan las prácticas de conservación con el costo más eficiente; que tratan múltiples problemas de los recursos; que responden a prioridades a nivel nacional, estatal o local; y que producen los mejores beneficios ambientales. En 2009, California recibió \$ 76 millones en fondos de EQIP y se espera que los fondos aumenten en 2010.

EQIP es un programa de conservación voluntario que ayuda a los productores con un aporte del costo de prácticas de conservación que pueden prevenir regulaciones locales, estatales y federales. Los fondos de EQIP ayudan a los productores agrícolas y ganaderos a reducir la erosión del suelo, a mejorar la calidad y el uso del agua, a proteger los terrenos de pastos y a minimizar la contaminación del aire.

Los productores agrícolas y ganaderos pueden recibir asistencia financiera y técnica a través del programa EQIP para prácticas de

conservación tales como: sistema de riego por goteo para varios cultivos, sistema de distribución de agua para el ganado y sistemas de almacenar y distribuir agua en las lecherías.

Para mayor información sobre EQIP, por favor llamar a la "Conservacionista del Distrito" de el Condado Kern, **Carolyn LoFreso (661) 336-0967 (extensión 131) o Raul Ramirez (extensión 130)**.

Sign Up Now for 2010 Conservation Funding

Conservation assistance is available on your agricultural US DA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to address their specific resource concerns through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Local assistance is available from NRCS. Land owners or persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. Program practices and activities are developed cooperatively with agricultural producers and local NRCS planning professionals.

For program information go to : <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2009/>.

EQIP applications can be submitted to NRCS Field Offices at any time during the year. However, a deadline for consideration of current year funding is required in order to make funding decisions. Contact your local NRCS field office for information or to apply; USDA-NRCS, 5000 California Ave. #100, Bakersfield, CA 93309, or call (661) 336-0967 ext 3.

New Payment Limitations

The 2008 Farm Bill provisions stipulate for the 2009 crop year and later, **Direct Attribution** will be used to limit the total payments to individuals and entities. In other words, all program payments made to individuals or entities will be attributed to the individual and to the entity. This means if the individual is a member of a farming entity (Corporation, trust, etc.) that payment will not be attributed to the individual Partners or members in addition to the entity.

Another change for 2009 is all participants must make an **active contribution in an entity**. All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, in the form of the following;

- 1) active personal labor, or
- 2) active personal Management, or
- 3) a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note there are exceptions for spouses. For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA Office.

Non Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) 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 Forage Crops, Intended Use of FG, Hay (Mechanically Harvested)	12/1/09
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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Five California Counties Eligible for USDA Emergency Farm Loans

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's designation of an emergency in the state of California on July 22, 2009, Tulare County has been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by

freeze, followed by excessive heat, which occurred on April 4, 2009, through April 22, 2009.

Also, Santa Barbara County has been named eligible for USDA emergency loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by low temperatures, which occurred on April 25, 2009.

Applicants must meet eligibility

requirements.

Applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses. The authorization for FSA to accept Emergency loan applications under these authorizations expires on March 22, 2010. For more information call the Kern County FSA Office at (661) 336-0967

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable sex, marital status, familial 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 and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Dates to Remember:

County Committee Elections	December 7, 2009
LFP & EIAP 2008 Signup Deadline	December 14, 2009
Certification of Small Grains	April 30, 2010
Certification All Other Land Uses	July 15, 2010
Reconstitution Deadline	August 1, 2010
MILC Signup	Continuing
NAP-Notice of Loss	Within 15 days of Natural Disaster Or Loss Becomes Apparent

FSAWEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov