



# NEWSLETTER



March 2011

## County Committee Election Results

## ACRE

### Kern County FSA Office

5000 California Ave  
Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
(661) 336-0967

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nathan Maragoni  
District Director

Joann Esser  
County Executive  
Director

Tom Hunton  
Farm Loan Manager

Albert Ghilarducci  
COC Chairperson

Ben Ansolabehere  
COC Vice-Chairperson

Jeff Bowen  
COC Regular Member

Ken Paul  
COC Regular Member

Catherine Fanucchi  
Minority Advisor

Next County  
Committee Meeting;  
April 7, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

Congratulations to Ben Ansolabehere. Ben was re-elected to represent farmers and ranchers from LAA-3 on the county committee. Ben was elected to his 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive term. The election results for LAA-3 are:

Ben Ansolabehere—elected to the county committee (COC).

Angela Vandborg—1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC.

Gerald Knopf—2<sup>nd</sup> alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

## 2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract. USDA 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 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2011, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

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.

## SURE – 2009 and Later

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. **SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011. Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.**

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance

on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions are required to trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition

- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm

- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations; SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

If you would like additional clarification call or stop by your local FSA office.

## **Sorghum Checkoff Referendum Scheduled**

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

## **Conservation Loan Program**

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement NRCS approved conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

CL funds can be used to implement a conservation practice approved by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), such as reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and promoting sustainable and organic agricultural practices. This would include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Interested applicants who do not already have NRCS-approved conservation plans should work with the local NRCS staff to develop a conservation plan, including all applicable conservation practices. New or existing conservation plans must be NRCS approved before FSA can provide financing.

### **Rates and Terms**

Those interested may apply for direct CLs with loan limits up to \$300,000 at local FSA offices. In addition, guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Interest rates on guaranteed CLs will vary, but may not exceed the rate charged the lender's average farm customer. For direct CLs, the interest rate will be the direct loans rate in effect (for farm ownership loans) either at the time of loan approval, or loan closing. These rates are available at the local FSA office.

Terms will vary and will be based on the life of the security offered, but not to exceed 20 years for real estate security and 7 years for chattel property. CLs must be fully secured and can only be approved for those who have the ability to repay them.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with your farm loan officer.

## **Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program**

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program compensates producers for revenue losses resulting from imports during the 2004 through 2007 crop years. Eligible asparagus producers will receive a market loss payment based upon the marketing category of their 2003 crop of asparagus.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to provide up to \$15 million in market loss payments to 2003-crop asparagus producers.

**Eligible Asparagus Producers**

To qualify for ALAP, producers must:

Have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during **both** crop years 2003 and 2007, and;

Meet highly erodible land and wetland provisions.

**Sign Up Period**

Sign up period for the ALAP begins on February 7, 2011, and ends on April 8, 2011.

**How to Apply**

Asparagus producers must submit form CCC-895, (ALAP Program Application), to their local FSA office. The form is available at FSA county offices and online at; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/alap>.

**For more information**

More information on ALAP is available at local FSA offices and on FSA's Web site at; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

**New Public Web Page**

FMD has established a new public web page to assist customers with their FSA financial reporting needs.

Included in this web page are the following:

- how to get access to financial applications
- instructions on financial applications
- financial fact sheets
- examples of Disbursement Transaction Statements
- electronic form link

- printable brochure containing financial information.

The Internet address for the Financial Management Information web page is; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>

**Non Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

**2012 Application Closing Dates**

All other annuals	3/1/12
Apples	1/31/12
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Cane berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/11
<b>NOTE:</b> Coverage no longer available for young trees.	
Fall Planted Garlic	10/1/11
Processed Onions, Honey	12/1/11
Fall Planted Seed Crops	8/1/11
Forage Crops/Permanent Pasture	
Forage Crops, Intended Use of Forage, Hay (Mechanically Harvested)	12/1/11
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	9/1/11
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/11
<b>2013 Crop Year Citrus Crops;</b>	
Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos	1/1/12

**NOTICES OF LOSS;**

In case of damage to any NAP covered crop at least one producer having a share in the unit must file a Notice of Loss in the FSA County Office:

1) For prevented planting claims within 15 days after the final planting date.

2) For low yield claims and allowable value loss the EARLIER of:

a) 15 days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent.

b) 15 days after the normal harvest date.

**REPORT OF ACREAGE FOR NAP**

An annual acreage report must be submitted for each covered crop in the administrative county on or before the acreage reporting date.

**THIS IS A REQUIREMENT WHETHER A NOTICE OF LOSS IS FILED OR NOT!**

- Late filed acreage reports may be accepted as timely if all the following apply;
  1. Physical existence of the late filed crop residue for the crop year being reported exists
  2. The acreage has not already been determined by FSA
  3. You pay the cost of a farm inspection unless FSA determines that failure to report in a timely manner was beyond your control. This cost may be quite substantial if you have large acreage.

Production must also be submitted every year by July 15, of the following year to maintain your Actual Production History record. Failure to do so could be detrimental to your yield and affect any payments you may be eligible for on a year you may incur a loss.

This is also required whether a Notice of Loss is filed or not.

Kern County FSA Office  
5000 California Ave Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711



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### Nine (9) California Counties Eligible for USDA Emergency Farm Loans

Pursuant to the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs' designation of a quarantine emergency in the state of California on November 1, 2010, Kern County has been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of production losses based on damages and losses caused by the Melon Fruit Fly quarantine, which began on August 19, 2010.

In addition, the following contiguous counties are eligible:

Inyo, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Kings, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura

Farmers in all 9 counties have eight months, from August 19, 2010, to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Some of the eligibility requirements are listed below:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet other eligibility criteria.

The authorization for FSA to accept Emergency loan applications under this authorization expires on July 1, 2011. For more information and application contact Tom Hunton, Farm Loan Manager 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, 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 program. (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 to 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:

SURE 2009 Sign UP	July 29, 2011
Certification of Small Grains	April 30, 2011
DCP Sign Up	June 1, 2011
Certification of All Other Land Uses	July 15, 2011
Reconstitution Deadline	August 1, 2011
MILC Signup	Continuing
NAP-Notice of Loss-Earlier of;	15 days After Occurrence of Natural Disaster Or Loss Becomes Apparent

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