



FSA Program Updates

Kings County USDA Service Center

Kings County FSA
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Hanford, CA 93230
559-585-8732 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

John L Martins
Peter Rietkerk
Ceil Howe III
Michael Miya -Advisor

County Director

Kathy Sargent

Staff

Joan Avila
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Nathan Olson
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FOOD, CONSERVATION & ENERGY ACT OF 2008

2008 Signup dates to be announced soon!

On May 22, 2008, the Food Conservation & Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) was passed. This bill included provisions regarding the 2008 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and other provisions that relate to eligibility. The 2008 DCP will be very similar to the previous DCP. Payment limitation provisions for the 2008 year, including AGI requirements, are also similar to the previous year. New payment limitation rules, such as attribution, will not be effective until 2009.

FSA will be announcing a signup period in the near future for the 2008 program year. Even though no signup date has been announced, any changes in your farm for 2008 can now be requested.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE APPROACHING

Please call ahead for an appointment!



Acreage reporting time is here! Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. In addition to the crop identified by the producer, planting dates are also being requested on a field by field basis. In some cases, variety (i.e. durum, white, red wheat) may be necessary as well.

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. Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports were to be certified by **April 30** for all fall-seeded crops such as small grains and **July 15** for all other crops. **Please note** that the late reporting fee for 2008 has changed from previous years. The fee is now \$15 per farm + (\$16 x hours) + (\$0.505 x mileage) and will be assessed on any farm not fully reported by the established deadlines, with the acreage subject to mandatory spot-check. The hours are those hours which are used when making a field visit (or would have been used for a physical visit, if aerial images are used for spot-check and measurement) to verify your late-certified acreage, and the mileage is the round trip mileage to your field(s) from the office. The fee is the same for any requested measurement services performed by the office staff. In most cases, this will represent a substantial increase in the fee over past years, so it is very important to certify your acreage timely.

DISASTER LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

July 18, 2008 Deadline Announced

Signup continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). **The deadline for both programs is July 18, 2008.** There are no late filed provisions for these programs. The Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits for producers who suffered grazing losses in designated disaster counties in 2005, 2006 or 2007. Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, goats and swine. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is available to cover livestock deaths caused by a natural disaster or related condition that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007, including losses due to excessive heat that occurred in July 2006.



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Signup underway for 2005, 2006 & 2007 years

The Kings County Farm Service Agency office is accepting applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 OR 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. No ending date has been announced for the signup. In order for us to provide better customer service to you, please call us for an appointment @ (559) 585-8732 Ext # 2 prior to coming into the office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



Farm Service Agency county offices are seeking interested farmers to serve as candidates for the local County Committee elections to be held this fall. The Committee is a direct link between USDA farm pro-

grams and local agricultural producers. The County Committee system helps shape nation-wide procedures into programs that work at the local level by making decisions that directly impact farmers. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch. Eligible persons include operators, owners and other tenants farming/ranching in the area up for election. The deadline to nominate a candidate for the Kings County Farm Service Agency Local Administrative Area 12 (Hanford/Kingsburg) representative is August 1, 2008. The boundaries of Area 12 are located south to Kansas Avenue, west to 16th Avenue, north to the Fresno County Line, and east to 1st Avenue. Nomination forms can be obtained by calling 582-1071 ext. 2 or at the agency's office at 680 Campus Drive, Suite C in Hanford. Each form must be signed by the eligible voter and by the person s/he nominates. **The forms must then be returned to the Farm Service Agency by August 1, 2008.** Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters no later than November 3, 2008 and must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 1, 2008. The top vote recipient will represent Local Administrative Area 12 for the next three years, beginning January 1, 2009. For additional questions about elections or voter eligibility, please contact the county office or visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on the News & Events tab & County Committee Elections for more information.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF A SEVERE NATURAL DISASTER HITS YOUR FARMING ENTERPRISE?



Whether it be crops or livestock, Farm Service Agency suggests you do the following immediately after damage occurs: 1) Contact your Crop Insurance Agent, if insured; 2) Contact your Agricultural Commissioner's office to report the damage; 3) Contact the Farm Service Agency and file form CCC-576, Notice of Loss **prior to destroying the crop**; 4) Take Pictures of the damage & document the event with rainfall or temperature readings.

It is extremely important to inform the FSA office and Ag Commissioner when your crops/livestock are affected by severe weather. Reports after the crop is harvested may not be accepted. Although there may not be any immediate assistance available, the notice of loss to the above parties may trigger the request for such assistance.

PREVENTED PLANTING ACREAGE CREDIT FOR 2008 CROP YEAR



Prevented Planting is the inability to plant crop acreage with proper equipment during the established planting period for the crop. In order to receive credit for this acreage you must prove to the County Committee: 1) that you attempted to plant the eligible crop acreage through the final planting date for the crop, and 2) crop acreage could not be planted because of a natural disaster or quarantine imposed by a State or local agency. Notice of Loss, Form CCC-576 must be filed **within 15 calendar days after the final planting date** for the crop and subsequently approved by the County Committee in order for prevented planting credit to be given. **VERY IMPORTANT: NOT FILING A CCC-576 IN A TIMELY MANNER WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PREVENTED PLANTED ACREAGE!**

RECORD CHANGES

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation including, but not limited to: land ownership changes, adding or dropping a tract of land (leases), entity type or ID number changes, marriage, divorce, deaths, or changes in **your financial institution for direct deposit.**

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. To be effective for the current year, recons **must be requested by Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

- 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.

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.

It is each producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately.

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land (this is not only cropland, but also rangeland), make sure you report the changes to your FSA office as soon as the change occurs. For farm owner changes, you will need to provide a recorded deed.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

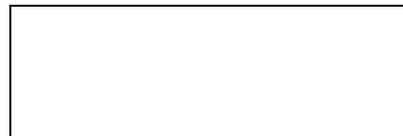
FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

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:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
 - Promissory note
 - Assignment of payment
 - Joint payment authorization
 - NAP actual production history and approved yield record
 - Financing statement
 - UCC financing statement
- 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
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

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



Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaching!

**CROP & LIVESTOCK
DISASTER SIGNUPS
CONTINUE!**

Please call for an appointment

DATES TO REMEMBER	
July 4	Independence Day – Office Closed
July 10-13	Go to the Kings Fair!!
July 15	Final Date to Timely Report Spring Seeded Crops
July 18	Deadline for Livestock Indemnity/ Compensation Programs
August 1	Final date to request reconstitution for 2008 Direct & Counter Cyclical Farms
August 1	Final date to receive nomination forms for FSA County Committee Election

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.