



July 2009

FSA Program Updates

Kings County
680 Campus Dr Ste C
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-8732
(559) 584-8715
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Peter Rietkerk
Ceil Howe III
Vicki Dias
Michael Miya-Advisor

County Director
Kathy Sargent

Staff
Joan Avila
Winifred Brogan
Nathan Olson
Lillian Sanchez
Julie Thomas
Lance Carter
Nangpay Vang

For a list of local offices,
visit
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

County Newsletter #3



FSA COC Nomination Deadline

The Kings County Farm Service Agency is seeking interested farmers in the Corcoran area to serve as candidates for the local County Committee election to be held this fall. Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age can be nominated/vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. 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. The Corcoran area includes land located south of Nevada Ave and east of 22nd Ave, as well as land south of Kansas Ave & east of 16th Ave. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign form FSA-669A.

This form may be obtained directly from our office or online. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The completed ballots are due back at the local county office by Dec. 7, 2009 either via mail or in person.

WATCH FOR NAP DEADLINES
See page 3 for details

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and 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 statutorily set below its target price.

The new ACRE Program 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.

Crop Reporting Deadline Extended

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In Kings County, the certification deadline for spring seeded crops has been extended to **August 14, 2009**.

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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 suffered setbacks from natural disasters or may have limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Successor In Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to 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 that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. Since FSA benefits are reported to IRS, maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensure that those payments are reported correctly.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Production Start-month Selection Rules

The 2010 Payment Year for the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program starts October 1, 2009. Participants in the MILC program are reminded that there is a deadline for changing the selected start month for the 2010 year. The 2010 contract year starts October 1, 2009. If no change is desired from your currently selected start month for the 2010 year, no action is necessary by enrolled producers.

Dairy operations can change the start month an unlimited number of times as long as the change is made on or before the 14th of the month prior to the MILC production start month (unless that day falls on a weekend, then the date falls to the **previous** business day). Producers may not select a month which has already passed. For example, if you previously selected any other month than October 2009 and wish to change your start month to October 2009, you must do so by September 14, 2009. If you should have any questions regarding what month you currently have selected, you should contact our office prior to September 14, 2009. All changes must be submitted prior to the deadline on signed form CCC-580M, Milk Income Loss Contract Modification.

Final Counter-Cyclical Payment Rates

2008 Wheat, Barley & Oats

Final 2008 counter-cyclical payment rates for wheat, barley and oats are zero because their effective prices exceed their respective target prices. The next payments to be issued under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program will be final direct payments for farms enrolled for the 2009 crop year. At this time, those payments are scheduled to be issued in October.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency offers low interest financing to producers who are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Kings County producers are reminded that the Farm Loan Programs for Kings County producers are administered from the Tulare County office. That office is located in Visalia at 3530 W Orchard Court (near the NE corner of the intersection of Caldwell & Demaree). The phone number is (559) 585-8732 Ext 2.

NAP Deadlines and Program Changes for 2010

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are coming up as early as **August 1, 2009**. Contact your local office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for deadlines and details for your crops. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

For nursery producers, the 2010 crop NAP application closing date is **September 1, 2009** and NAP only covers loss of inventory. The NAP coverage period for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is \$250 per crop or up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees.

2010 NAP Application Closing Dates		
Crops	Closing Date	Comments
Multi Planting Periods 01,02,03	8/1/2009	Multi Planting Counties Only
Fall Planted Seed Crops	8/1/2009	Includes all grain fall or spring
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/2009	Example: Aquaculture, Flowers, Christmas Trees, & Nursery
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	9/1/2009	ALL Counties
Garlic Fall Planted	10/1/2009	Counties with fall planted Garlic
Onions	12/1/2009	
Forage Crops , Intended Use of FG , Hay (Mechanically Harvested) Forage Crops , Intended Use of GZ , Grazing	12/1/2009	ALL Counties
Honey	12/1/2009	ALL Counties
Asparagus and Artichokes	12/15/2009	
Fruit - Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Cane berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Most Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/2009	Remember: NAP coverage is NO LONGER AVAILABLE for insured crops that have not reached age.
Apples	1/31/2010	
Annuals: squash, carrots, etc.	3/1/2010	
2011 NAP Application Closing Dates		
2011 Avocados & Citrus: Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos, etc.	1/1/2010	First Application Closing Date for the 2011 NAP Citrus Crop Year

- **NAP coverage is NOT available on any crop that is insurable in the County at any level of maturity. (No more young orchards)**
- **Nursery Crops are Insurable in ALL California Counties.** (crop coverage can be verified by a **Crop Ins. Agent** for your county)
- **for annual crops coverage begins the later of either of the following:**
 - 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed**
 - Or the date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date**



Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1, 2009	NAP Deadlines Start for 2010 – (Refer to page 3 of this newsletter)
Aug. 3, 2009	Deadline to file County Committee Nomination
Aug. 14, 2009	Crop Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Crops
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline
Sept. 14, 2009	Last day to Change MILC Start Date to October 2009

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