



May 2010

Kings County FSA News

2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Sign-up Deadline: June 1, 2010

The DCP deadline is fast approaching! We encourage producers to call the office to make an appointment as soon as possible for sign-up. USDA producers may also use the eDCP automated website to sign up. DCP is the traditional program payment using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Producers may request to receive a 22 percent advance of the direct payment. Counter-Cyclical (CC) payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-Cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for the commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is an alternative to receiving the traditional price-based Counter-Cyclical payments. The ACRE program was designed to give producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue. 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent of the farms planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farms yield divided by the state expected yield.

Producers who elect ACRE for a farm forfeit counter-cyclical payments; accept 20 percent reduction of the direct payments; and accept a 30 percent reduction on loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. It also requires that all owners and producers on the farm agree to enroll in ACRE. The decision to elect ACRE is **irrevocable** for the term of the current farm bill (through 2012).

Reconstitutions

2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and Average Crop Revenue Election Program participants must request farm or tract reconstitutions by **June 1, 2010**. Reconstitution is a process that divides and combines farms and tracts that have been purchased and/or sold. In the event, an operator changes, a reconstitution may be necessary to divide the tract from its previous operator's farm and combine (with the landowner's approval) with the current operators farm. **If you have land changes for 2010 and will be participating into the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and/or Average Crop Revenue Election Program, please call the office to a soon as possible to make an appointment.** For all other programs, reconstitutions must be requested by August 1, 2010.

2008 Crop Disaster Program Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-up Underway

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses for crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011 due to natural disasters. **Applications are currently being taken for the 2008 crop year.** To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to meet the risk management purchase requirement (RMPR) by obtaining crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantage, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the RMPR requirement.

What are the conditions that 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
- The farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

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

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

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

County Director
Kathy Sargent

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

Farm Loan Manager
(located in Visalia)
Tom Roberts

Farm Loan Staff
Patricia Miller, FLO
Slade Childers

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





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SURE 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.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

Acresage Reporting

All program participants must file an accurate acresage report for all crops and land uses including failed and prevented planting acresage, to prevent loss of benefits. The fall seeded crop acresage reporting date was April 30, 2010. **The spring seeded crop acresage reporting date is July 15, 2010.**

Note: Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) participants should check with FSA regarding applicable crop acresage reporting deadline dates.

Failed acresage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposal of the crop. Prevented acresage must be reported no later than 15 days after the final plant date.

Acresage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid on are due in the county office by April 30, 2010 for small grain crops and July 15, 2010 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acresage being reported.

2011 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acresage reports
- Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- Notifying FSA within **15 days** of damaging weather event, or within **15 days** of the crop damage becoming apparent. (Including grasses)
- Notifying FSA prior to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.



NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acresage information from prior years to establish your yield. **If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acresage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date.** Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acresage reporting date.**

Payment Limitations

The 2008 Farm Bill establishes a maximum dollar amount for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Such limitations on payments are controlled by direct attribution. Program payments made directly or indirectly to a person are combined with the pro rata interest held in any legal entity that received payment, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.

Program payments made directly to a legal entity are attributed to those persons that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person. Payment attribution to a legal entity is tracked through four levels of ownership. If any part to the ownership interest at the fourth level is owned by another legal entity, a reduction in payment will be applied to the payment entity in the amount that represents the indirect interest of the fourth level entity in the payment entity.

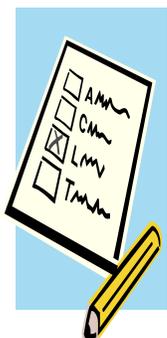
Common attribution

Common attribution is crediting payments made to person or legal entity collectively to one limitation due to a unique or specific relationship between the persons or legal entities. Common attribution applies to a minor child and a parent or legal guardian; and a parent organization over a secondary organization when the parent organization exercises control over the secondary organization.

Payment Limitation Table Crop Years 2009-2012	
Direct & Counter Cyclical Program on covered commodities except peanuts	\$40,000
Counter Cyclical & ACRE	\$65,000
NAP	\$100,000
SURE, LIP, LFP, & ELAP	\$100,000
Price Support	No Limit

To find more information, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

2010 FSA County Committee Elections



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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. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

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

Election Period

June 15, 2010–The nomination period begins for the Kings County FSA Local Administrative Area 13 (**Lemoore/Stratford/Avenal**) representative. The area includes that portion of the county that lies south of Excelsior Avenue, west of 16th Avenue when north of Nevada Ave, and west of 22nd avenue when south of Nevada Avenue.

Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

- Aug. 2, 2010–Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center
- Nov. 5, 2010–Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 6, 2010–Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
- Jan. 1, 2011–Newly elected county committee members take office.

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 also may be eligible to vote. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled “FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member.” Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected.

Form FSA-669A is available at USDA Service Centers and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer’s farm records.

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 5, 2010, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 6, 2010. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

Uniform Guidelines

USDA issued uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially minority and women producers. Minorities are African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women. In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly encourage beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee.

**To read the guidelines in their entirety, visit the County Committee Elections page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.*

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of minority or women producers and lack such members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations.



**Starting
June 15th**



Kings County FSA Office
 680 Campus Dr Suite C
 Hanford, CA 93230



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Davis, California
 PERMIT # 22**

Attention: Durum Wheat producers - Be sure to check with the FSA office regarding Loan Deficiency Payment rates.

IMPORTANT DATES:	
June 1, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 Direct & Counter Cyclical (DCP)/ACRE Program Signup Reconstitution Request for DCP/ACRE Participants
June 15, 2010	COC nomination period begins for the Local Administrative Area 13 (Lemoore/Stratford/Avenal) representative
July 15, 2010	Spring seeded crops must be reported. Planting dates, intended use and variety are needed at the time of report.
August 1, 2010	Reconstitution Request for all other programs
Ongoing	SURE Program Signup – 2008 Crop Year
Various Dates	See http://www.fsa.usda.gov/internet/FSA_File/important_dates.pdf For various NAP insurance purchase deadlines

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