



Kings County FSA News

Kings County
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Hours

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

County Committee

Cecil Howe III
Vicki Dias
Peter Rietkerk
Michael Miya-Advisor

County Director

Kathy Sargent

Staff

Joan Avila
Winifred Brogan
Nathan Olson
Lillian Sanchez
Julie Thomas

Farm Loan Manager (located in Visalia)

Tom Roberts

Farm Loan Staff

Patricia Miller
Slade Childers

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

August 2010
County Newsletter #3

2008 Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Deadline to apply is September 30, 2010

Applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the **2008** Crop Year. The deadline to apply for the 2008 crop year is September 30, 2010. Signup for the 2009 Crop Year has not yet been announced. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to **natural disaster** that was incurred starting with the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage.

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 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.

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. **Producers who do not file a 2008 SURE program payment application by Sept. 30, 2010, will not be considered eligible for 2008 SURE program payments.**

Additional information and a SURE calculator are 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 program background information are also available online.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA conducts yearly compliance checks on behalf of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office staff, the RMA office, or the USDA Office of the Inspector General.



MILC Program Reminder

Participants with active contracts under the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program are reminded that the new fiscal year starts on October 1, 2010. Please be aware that **there are deadlines** if you wish to change your starting payment month for the 2011 year fiscal year.

The production start month selection made by the dairy operation and designated on form CCC-580, Milk Income Loss Contract, must be received in the County Office on or before the 14th of the month before the production start date selected by the producers in the dairy operation. If the 14th of the month falls on a weekend, the dairy operation production start month selection must be made on the last business day preceding the weekend. For example, if you have selected any month other than October 2010 and wish to change to October 2010, **you must make the selection on or before September 14, 2010.** If you have selected October 2010 and wish to change to another month, you must also make that selection no later than September 14, 2010.

All modifications to your existing MILC contract must be filed on form CCC-580M.

Please contact this office for more information if you wish to change your production start month date or modify any other information on your contract. If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact this office at (559) 585-8732 Ext 2.

Final Counter-Cyclical Payment Rates

2009 Wheat, Barley & Oats

Final 2009 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 2010 crop year. At this time, those payments are scheduled to be issued in October.

Banking Change?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service. Failure to timely notify us will cause a delay while the payment is manually being re-routed to the correct account.

Land Ownership Changes

Has your land been put into trust?

All land ownership changes should be reported to FSA, including transactions which result in land being placed into a revocable trust. It is very important that our records be kept up to date. Please note that we are **not** directly connected with the county assessor's office, nor do we receive direct notification from that office when ownership changes. It is the owner's responsibility to inform FSA of any changes. If changes do occur, please provide a copy of the recorded deed as proof of ownership.

Farm Loan Program News

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loans (OL) to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lenders. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. Our loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. August interest rates are 4.625% for Farm Ownership, 2.5% for Farm Operating and 3.75% for Emergency Loans (this loan program is activated when a weather-related disaster occurs and a declaration is issued).

Many of the FSA loan application forms are available on our website at www.fsa.usda.gov. Farm Loan Programs for Kings County are handled by the Farm Loan Team located in the Visalia FSA office. We encourage you to contact us at the USDA Service Center located at 3530 W. Orchard Court, Visalia, CA, to learn more about our programs and the information you will need for a complete application. All of us on the farm loan team - Tom Roberts, Farm Loan Manager, Patricia Miller, Farm Loan Officer and Slade Childers, Farm Loan Program Technician - look forward to meeting you! Just give the office a call at (559) 734-8732, Ext.2, to get more information or make an appointment.

Crop Reporting

Did you remember to report 2010 crops?

The deadline to timely file your spring seeded crops was July 15, 2010. Many programs require a crop report as a basis for eligibility. If you forgot to file, you may still request to file a late certification. Physical evidence of the crop must be available and a fee will be charged to cover the cost of county office verification. Please contact us as soon as possible if you need to report any 2010 crop year acreage.

NAP Deadlines and Program Changes for 2011

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are approaching. 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.

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.

- **NAP coverage is NOT available on any crop that is insurable in the County at any level of maturity. (No more young orchards)**
- **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**

2011 NAP Application Closing Dates		
Crops	Closing Date	Comments
Fall Planted Seed Crops	8/1/2010	Includes all grain fall or spring
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops	9/1/2010	Example: Aquaculture, Flowers, & Christmas Trees
Strawberries	9/1/2010	Santa Barbara & Ventura
Strawberries	10/1/2010	LA, Orange, San Bernardino
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	9/1/2010	ALL Counties
Garlic Fall Planted	10/1/2010	Counties with fall planted Garlic
Onions	12/1/2010	
Forage Crops , Intended Use of FG , Hay (Mechanically Harvested) Forage Crops , Intended Use of GZ , Grazing	12/1/2010	ALL Counties
Honey	12/1/2010	ALL Counties
Asparagus and Artichokes	12/15/2010	
Fruit - Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Cane berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Most Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/2010	Remember: NAP coverage is NO LONGER AVAILABLE for insured crops that have not reached age.
Apples	1/31/2011	
Annuals: squash, carrots, etc.	3/1/2011	
2012 NAP Application Closing Dates		
2012 Avocados & Citrus: Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos, etc.	1/1/2011	First Application Closing Date for the 2012 NAP Citrus Crop Year



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Please notify our office if you are no longer a landowner or no longer have an interest in a farming operation in Kings County so that you may be removed from our mailing list. Your assistance is appreciated.

Important Dates	
July 15, 2010	Spring seeded crops reporting deadline. Planting dates, intended use and variety are needed at the time of report. Late Certifications are now available if you missed the deadline.
September 6, 2010	Office closed for Labor Day
September 30, 2010	SURE Program Signup Deadline – 2008 Crop Year
October 2010	Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) - Final 2010 Direct Payments to be issued
Within 15 days	To be considered timely, damage to crops must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days after the damage occurs or the date the crop damage becomes apparent
Various Dates	See http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/important_dates.pdf for various NAP insurance purchase deadlines – (also see page 3)

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