



NEWSLETTER



**Kings County
Farm Service Agency**
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

**Farm Loan Manager
(located in Visalia office)**

Tom Roberts

Farm Loan Staff

Patricia Miller
Slade Childers

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

November 2010

County Newsletter #4

Direct & Counter-cyclical (DCP) & Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program Signup Underway

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Producers may visit the eDCP automated website or contact FSA for an appointment to visit the office to complete signup. Advance direct payments can be requested as early as Dec. 1, 2010. All eligibility requirements must be met prior to any payment being issued for the farm.

June 1, 2011 is the mandatory deadline for all ACRE/DCP participants for the 2011 crop year. FSA will not accept late-filed applications for the DCP or ACRE program.

Changing Banks or Accounts??

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

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

 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.

CCC-927 or -928 Disclosure Form Needed by IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

In October, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form", or CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Public Financial Management Information

FSA has established a new public web page which allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Users must register for an e-Authentication Level 2 account prior to accessing the Financial Services Website. The internet address for the web page is: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Disaster Assistance Programs / Risk Management

FSA disaster assistance programs include: Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP). To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were scheduled to be mailed to eligible voters in the Lemoore/Stratford area on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010. This year the candidates are Ceil Howe III and Ronda Brooks.

Eligible voters in the Lemoore/Stratford area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements are eligible to vote and must be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*

be a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper. Eligible voters must also be eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of funding status.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices 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; and more. For more information on this program, please contact the FSA Farm Loan Team at (559) 734-8732 Ext 2.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Methods used for farm reconstitution are:

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 applicable when part or all of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred.

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.

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:

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

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

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
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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PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
PERMIT #22

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday-County Office Closed
Dec. 6	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
April 30, 2011	Fall Seeded Acreage Reporting Deadline
June 1, 2011	Direct & Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program / Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) Filing Deadline
Within 15 days	To be considered timely filed, damage to crops must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days after the damage occurs or the date the crop damage was apparent
Various Dates	See http://www.fsa.gov/Internet/FSA_File/important_dates.pdf for various NAP insurance purchase deadlines – (also see page 3)