

Farm Service Agency

Address:

USDA Service Center
44811 Date Ave., Ste. B
Lancaster, CA 93534

Telephone:

(661) 942-9549 ext. 2
Fax: (661) 942-5503

Web Sites:

FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov
USDA: www.usda.gov
Farm Bill:
www.usda.gov.farmbill

Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

County Committee:

Paul Johnson
Richard Manassero
Terry Munz
Patricia Van Dam

Advisor:

Bennie Moore, Jr.

County Executive**Director:**

Douglas Brand

Staff:

Marilynn Wells, PT
Holleen Self, PT

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Dairy Disaster Assistance Program
- Livestock Indemnity Program
- Livestock Compensation Program
- Acreage Reporting
- Crop Disaster Program
- Farm Bill Extended
- FSA Signature Authority Requirement
- Crop Insurance Rebate Schemes

Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino Counties

FSA NEWS

April 2008

Newsletter 2

DDAP-III Sign Up Resumes

(May 5th Signup Deadline)

Eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 may now apply to receive benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III).



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) began enrolling producers in DDAP-III in late 2007. However, in early 2008, FSA temporarily halted sign-up pending the completion of rulemaking which began with the issuance of a proposed rule for public comments on the program. Based on public comments, FSA made minor changes to the proposed DDAP-III rules. The new signup period for DDAP-III began on **March 5, 2008** and ends on **May 5, 2008**. No late filed applications will be accepted after the deadline.

The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers across the country for dairy production losses that occurred between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of natural disasters (excessive rain, flooding, excessive heat, severe freeze, wildfires, etc).

To be eligible for payment, production for the entire disaster year will be compared to the base years of 2003 & 2004. A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the president or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007. Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. Producers in counties declared disaster areas by the President may be eligible, even though the agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covered such losses.

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (2007 Act), signed by President Bush in May 2007, authorizes DDAP-III. On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2008, which extends DDAP-III payments to eligible producers who suffered dairy production losses through December 31, 2007.

FSA Officials will be conducting a Town Hall meeting to provide additional DDAP-III information and will answer all your program questions on **April 9, 2008, at 10:00 am**. The town hall meeting will be at Brinderson Hall at the Chino Fairgrounds, located at 5410 Edison Avenue, Chino, California.

If you have any questions regarding DDAP-III and cannot attend the Town Hall meeting, please feel free to contact our office at (661) 942-9549.

Congratulations to Marilynn Wells

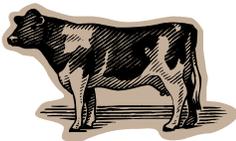
This is with very mixed emotions that I announce that Marilynn Wells will be leaving our County FSA Office. She has been selected by Riverside-San Diego County FSA Committee to be the County Executive Director (CED) for the FSA Office in Indio, Ca. Prior to becoming the CED, Marilynn will be participating in a 6 – 12 month manager's training program.



Marilynn began her career with FSA in 1987. She has been an outstanding employee and has been invaluable to the farming community she serves. Her dedication shows in the wonderful working relationships she has developed with her co-workers and clientele. We are terribly sad to see her go, but realize this is a great opportunity for her. We wish her the very best of luck!

Livestock Indemnity Program

Did you lose any livestock between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 as a result of a disaster event, such as excessive moisture in 2005 or excessive heat in July of 2006? If so, you may be eligible for federal financial assistance.



The ***Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)*** compensates livestock producers for livestock losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007, that resulted from natural disasters.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. The livestock must have died in an eligible county as a result of an eligible disaster event. The following are among the eligible livestock under LIP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, catfish, crawfish, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, and deer. The livestock must not have been produced for reasons other than commercial farming.

Signup for LIP began on September 10, 2007. An ending signup date has not been established.

Applicants must provide adequate proof that the eligible livestock deaths occurred in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during the applicable disaster period. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may be documented by rendering truck receipts or certificates, veterinarian records, IRS records, or any other documentation to verify the losses.

If a livestock owner does not have adequate proof of death, FSA will accept certifications of livestock deaths by third parties and the livestock owner. The certifications must be a written, signed, and dated statement.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LIP benefits.

If you would like to apply for LIP or have any questions regarding eligibility, feel free to call our office at (661) 942-9549 ext. 100.

Livestock Compensation Program

The ***Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)*** compensates livestock producers for feed losses on non-irrigated grazing/pasture land resulting from the 2007 drought. Signup for LCP began on September 10, 2007. An ending signup date has not been established.

The following are among the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits.

For more information on the LCP program, feel free to call our office at (661) 942-9549 ext. 100.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be 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.

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 for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **April 30** deadline on small grains and a **July 15** deadline on all other crops.

Crop Disaster Program

Signup underway for 2005, 2006, 2007 years



The 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.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Quality losses must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in 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 at (661) 942-9549 ext 105, prior to coming into the office.

Farm Bill Extended Until April 18



Passage of the farm bill, currently being debated by Congress, has been delayed, requiring a 33-day extension that was recently passed and signed by President George W. Bush.

“America’s farmers deserve better than a series of short-term extensions here of our current law,” says Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer. “They need to know what farm policy is going to be so that they can make sound business decisions about what to plant this year and how they are going to finance it.”

The current farm bill will now extend to April 18. Congress will have until that date to pass a consolidated bill.

FSA Signature Authority

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.



Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebate offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.



RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers & agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: **1-800-424-9121**.

Dates to Remember

April 30, 2008	Acreage Reporting Date – Small Grains
May 5, 2008	DDAP-III Signup Deadline Date
Not yet announced	Signup Deadline Date for LIP, LCP & CDP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Office
44811 Date Ave., Suite B
Lancaster, CA. 93534

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (661) 942-9549.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.