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**Mendocino/Lake  
County Committee  
Members:**

**Tim Strong**

**David Mostin**

**Walter Stornetta**

**Stephanie Williamson**

**Dan Campbell**

**Betty Foster**

Mendocino/Lake FSA  
405 S. Orchard Ave.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 468-9225  
(707) 468-5278 Fax

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00am- 4:30pm

# Farm Service Agency

## Second 2008 Buy-in Sign-up Announced

The 2008 Farm Bill legislated disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). All of your crops on all of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ( Pub. L. 111-5) was enacted on February 17, 2009, and authorized an additional waiver which allows producers another opportunity to pay a buy-in fee for the 2008 crop year to be eligible for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance **except the Livestock Forage Program (LFP).**

The second eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by COB [May 18, 2009](#) at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

**Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%

**Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

The buy-in fees for both CAT (insured) and NAP (non-insured) is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$ 900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT, NAP, relief and other "buy-in". Producers must "buy-in" for all non-insured and insurable crops that are not already covered by NAP, crop insurance, or meet the following waivers:

1. Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers do not have to pay the buy-in fee;
2. De Minimis: An eligible producer on a farm may elect to waive RMPR on a crop that is not economically significant (a crop must contribute less than 5 percent of the total expected revenue to be considered not economically significant) and for which the NAP fee exceeds 10 percent of the value of the NAP coverage.

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3. Producers are no longer required to have coverage on acreage that is planted to a subsequent crop unless double cropping or multiple cropping is an approved practice for the crop.

The buy-in fee is non-refundable and due at the time a producer files the appropriate paperwork. Contact your FSA office for more information at (707) 468-9225 X 2.

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

On February 25, 2009 Lake and Mendocino Counties were approved to receive funding to implement Drought Emergency Measures under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). ECP is established to provide cost-share assistance to eligible producers during periods of severe drought to supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards and to supply emergency water for livestock, including confined livestock and poultry.

The following practices will receive 50% cost-share assistance:

- Buried pipelines;
- Irrigation tail-water recovery systems for orchards and vineyards;
- Construction and deepening of wells.

The following practices will receive 75% cost-share assistance:

- Spring developments;
- Earthen tanks where a source of underground water is available;
- Dugouts;
- Water troughs;
- Development of seeps

The sign-up period for ECP will be only 30 days and will begin April 27, 2009. Contact the Mendocino/Lake County FSA office for more information, or to schedule an appointment. **Sign-up for this program will end May 29, 2009.**



## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producers who had livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following means:

- Rendering truck receipts or certificates;
- Veterinary records;
- Dairy herd improvement records.

### Third-party verification

The third party must certify in writing their name, address, telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired hand, or family member. Producers should also document the loss by taking photos of the animal, keep veterinary records, record disposal costs and secure third-party verification.

At this time, the forms and procedure for taking loss applications are not yet available at your county FSA office. Maintaining records of your losses is important in order to be eligible when program funding becomes available.

## 2009 NAP Notice of Loss

The Non-insured Crop Disaster Insurance Program (NAP) is 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. NAP is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities except livestock for which federal crop insurance is not available.

Producers who purchased 2009 NAP coverage must complete the following in order to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file accurate acreage reports and keep a record of harvested production using acceptable methods.
- File form CCC-576, "NAP Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the disaster event, or as soon as a loss is apparent, due to natural disaster condition. Call the FSA office to request a form if you believe that you are experiencing a crop loss due to weather related disaster event (s).
- Timely file production records no later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date.
- Report any changes to your farming operation or gross income, as they occur.

Failure to comply with the program requirements may result in loss of benefits.

**Mendocino/Lake County  
Farm Service Agency  
405 S. Orchard Ave.  
Ukiah, CA 95482**

**Mendocino/Lake County FSA Office Staff**

**County Executive Director**

Katherine Delbar

**Farm Loan Manger**

Belle Davis

**Program Technicians**

Lesalee Miles-Miller

Joleen Logan

**Farm Loan Officer Trainee**

Karri Bartolomei



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