



Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties May 2009

USDA-FSA

Monterey-Santa Cruz-
San Mateo Counties
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30 pm

County Committee

Sam Mann
Dan Luksik
Frank LaMacchia
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Advisors

Peter Navarro
Dominic Muzzi

Second 2008 Buy-in for Insurable & Non-Insurable Crops

A second chance to “buy-in” insurance and/or NAP for 2008 is now underway. In order to be eligible for several new disaster programs, producers must obtain at least CAT level crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all insurable crops on the farm. A farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties nationwide. This buy-in does not include 2009. The buy-in fee must be paid by close of business May 18, 2009. Producers who meet the requirements of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or ranchers are not required to pay the buy-in fee. This provision does not apply to 2009. Contact the county office for more information.

2009 Direct & Countercyclical Program (DCP) Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. In some states, FSA is already issuing advance direct payments.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for iden-

tity verification.

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional countercyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. 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. County committees provide local input on most FSA programs.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. The election period is as follows:



June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - nomination forms (FSA669A) due
Nov. 6, 2009 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters
Dec. 7, 2009 – Ballots due
Jan. 1, 2010 – New county committee term

Eligibility. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria. (1) Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA (2) be a U.S. Citizen (3) be eligible to vote in a county committee election and (4) reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. The person must not have been: (A) Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee; (B) Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony; (C) Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

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 and are available in Spanish. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009. 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.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have a measurement completed on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery if available, and where an on-site visit is not required, at a reduced rate. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Crop Acreage Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Acreage reporting dates are as follows in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties:

2009 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

Sept 30, 2008	Value Loss including Flowers
Dec 15, 2008	Forage, grazed
April 30, 2009	Fall & Spring Small Grains
July 15, 2009	All other crops, such as strawberries, canberries, orchards, annual vegetables, etc. (Except small grains, flowers and value loss crops)

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. **Failed Acreage:** Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions. **Late-filed Acreage Reports:** Late-filed acreage reports may be requested for the applicable fee and according to late-filed provisions.

Pulse Crops and New Base Acreages. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres. The addition of pulse crop base acres is: (1) effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years; (2) required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill. The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as: dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled) intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible Lentils; any intended use; large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use; small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use. Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for

counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009. Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Farm Reconstitutions. The reconstitution of a farm 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 August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Soybean Referendum May 4 – May 29

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act. Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from the FSA county offices. The deadline for returning the referendum request form is May 29, 2009. For more information, contact your local FSA office.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If NRCS indicates on a CPA-026 that the area has highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will

not be violated.

2010 NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) APPLICATION CLOSING DATES

January 1, 2009	Avocados, Citrus (lemons, oranges, limes, etc)
August 1, 2009	Small Grains, fall or spring
September 1, 2009	Flowers, Value Loss Crops
September 1, 2009	Forage Crops mechanically harvested (HAY)
December 1, 2009	Forage GRAZED (native pasture, etc) and forage seed crops, honey, onions
December 15, 2009	Fruit, nut tree crops, asparagus, caneberries, grapes, kiwis, olives, strawberries, etc.
March 1, 2010	Annuals (squash, carrots, etc)

NAP participants must annually file a complete and accurate report of acreage and production records by the applicable reporting dates. If you do not know the date you must file for your crops, please contact the county office. Notices of loss must be filed within 15 days of the date of the disaster occurrence so that the crop may be inspected timely. Forage producers may not graze damaged acreage until an appraisal of the crop has been made.

FSA Farm Loans

There are several loan programs designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. Direct farm ownership and operating loans up to a maximum of \$300,000 guaranteed loans to a maximum of \$1,094,000 and emergency loans to a maximum of \$500,000. For detailed information on loan eligibility for each of these programs, please contact a farm loan officer for an appointment to discuss your specific needs.

Emergency Farm Loans

The dates listed below are the deadlines to file for emergency farm loans. For details about the qualifications of these programs, please contact a farm loan officer.

<u>Deadline to Apply</u>	<u>Type of Losses</u>
June 8, 2009	Drought, January 2008
June 15, 2009	High temperatures in June 2008
August 23, 2009	Light Brown Apple Moth Quarantine from May 2, 2007

Dates to Remember	
May 18, 2009	Second 2008 Buy-In Deadline
May 4 thru May 29, 2009	Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion
June 15, 2009	COC nominations period opens
August 1, 2009	NAP Small Grain Application Deadline
April 27 to August 14, 2009	ACRE program signup runs
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline
Selected Interest Rates for May 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.250 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Contact your County FSA Office after the first of the month for current interest rates on Farm Storage Facility Loans, Sugar Storage Facility Loans and Commodity Loans.	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.250 %

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