



**Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County News**  
**February 2010**

**Si necesita una Explicación en Español, Por Favor Llámenos A La oficina**

**County Committee Election Results**

The results of the County Committee elections for Local Administrative Area 3 (South Monterey County) and 4 (Santa Cruz/San Mateo counties) are as follows. Regular members will begin their three-year term on January 1, 2010.

*South Monterey County (LAA#3)*

Ed Roth 62 votes  
Robert Martin 1 vote

*Santa Cruz/San Mateo Counties LAA#4)*

Nita Gizdich 62 votes  
Sam (Bud) Mann 39 votes  
Peter Navarro 15 votes

**USDA Service Center**

Monterey, Santa Cruz,  
San Mateo County FS  
744 LaGuardia St #A  
Salinas, CA 93905  
(831) 424-7377 (phone)  
(831) 424-7289 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/

**Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Ed Roth  
Dan Luksik  
Frank LaMacchia  
Nita Gizdich  
Peter Navarro,  
Advisor

**Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)**

Signup has begun for the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. This program assists producers if they suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year. The program is an important component of the farm safety net and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disasters. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. In addition to meeting the risk management purchase requirement, a producer must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Regardless of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide. For more information, contact the FSA county office for information and to make an appointment.

**Average Adjusted Income Compliance – 2009 & 2010**

Programs administered by FSA and NRCS require average adjusted gross income certifications. Participants who have received payments in 2009 and/or 2010 are required to provide consent to the IRS for the use and disclosure of tax information for AGI compliance purposes. This must be done by filing a form CCC-927 form for individuals using social security numbers or program participants who are members of a legal entity. Form CCC-928 is to be filed by legal entities which have an employer identification number or a program participant that is a member of another legal entity.



These forms authorize FSA to share program information with the IRS to verify compliance with AGI rules. To safeguard privacy, this form must be completed and submitted by participants to the IRS directly, and within 60 calendar days of the signature date. Blank CCC-927's and CCC-928's are available at the FSA County Office, or may be obtained at the following online address: <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/fsa/> or <http://intra3.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>. *Note: The consent forms must be mailed directly to the IRS at the address given on the form no later than June 15, 2010.*

### **2010 Direct & Countercyclical Program (DCP)**

FSA is now enrolling farms in the DCP program. In order to be eligible for DCP benefits, a contract must be signed no later than June 1, 2010. USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. All requests to reconstitute a farm must be filed no later than June 1, 2010. There are no late filed provisions. If you have changes to your farming operation, such as changes to your entity, adding or deleting farms, ownership changes, crop shares, etc., please be sure to provide documentation of these changes when you visit the county office. Farm changes may affect eligibility to participate in the program. Any crop may be planted on base acres with the exception of fruits, vegetables and wild rice. 2010 eligibility forms must be updated or filed as well as signature authority documentation for individuals signing on behalf of other entities. Crop acreage reports must be filed for all participating DCP farms for all crops on the farm, including fruits and vegetables. Contact the office for an early appointment so you do not miss the deadline!

### **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was 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. Many of the new 2008 Farm Bill Programs require that NAP or crop insurance be purchased in order to be eligible for assistance. Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or change crop shares or entity type must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable deadline. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to be eligible for program benefits:

- File zero planted acreage reports on all crops selected for NAP coverage, but not planted.
- Value loss crops such as aquaculture and flowers must maintain accurate monthly inventories and file acreage reports no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Provide production records at the end of harvest, and/or keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. Production records must be filed by the subsequent acreage reporting date. That is, before you file your acreage report for the next year and no later than the final acreage reporting date for that crop.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to adverse weather. Additionally, the acreage that is affected by adverse weather should not be destroyed or grazed until an inspection of the crop and/or an appraisal can be made by an FSA Loss Adjustor.
- Applications for payment under the NAP program are required to be filed no later than the subsequent acreage reporting date.

Some crops are insurable through private crop insurance, such as barley and wheat for grain, grapes, and eligible container nursery. To determine which crops are insurable or non-insurable, contact the county office or a crop insurance agent. Many of the 2008 farm bill programs require that all crops be insured or have NAP coverage. NAP fees are nonrefundable and are \$250 per crop up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 for all crops in all counties. NAP fees are waived for Limited Resource farmers. A limited resource farmer is a producer with both of the following: (1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years, and (2) a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both of the previous 2 years. Limited Resource Farmers are required to recertify their limited resource status annually, and therefore, must file a new NAP application for coverage (CCC-471) each year.

**2010 NAP Closing Dates  
Counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo**

<b>NAP Crops</b>	<b>2010 Application Closing Dates</b>
Fall Planted Seed Crops (Spring & Fall Grains)	August 1, 2009
Value Loss Crops (flowers, aquaculture, etc)	September 1, 2009
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	September 1, 2009
Garlic (fall planted)	October 1, 2009
Forage Crops/Intended Uses of: FG HAY-mechanically harvested FG GRAZE-grazed	December 1, 2009
Honey	December 1, 2009
Asparagus & Artichokes	December 15, 2009
Fruit/Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Blueberries, Cane berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Walnuts, Perennial Herbs, etc.	December 15, 2009
Apples	January 31, 2010
Annual Vegetables: Carrots, Squash, Celery, Cauliflowers, Annual Herbs, Broccoli, etc.	March 1, 2010
<b>2011</b> Avocados & Citrus: Limes, Lemons, Oranges, Tangelos, etc.	January 1, 2010

**2010 Acreage Reporting Dates, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties**

September 30, 2009..... Value Loss Crops (Nursery, Aquaculture, Bee Hives, Xmas Trees)  
 September 30, 2009.....Flowers (floriculture)  
 April 30, 2010.....Fall & Spring seeded small grain & hay (Oats, Barley, Wheat, etc.)  
 July 15, 2010.....All other crops, including CRP acreage, vegetables, orchards, herbs, strawberries, etc) 2010 Payment Limitation Rules

**Actively Engaged in Farming, 2010 rule changes**

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the FSA. Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members can not exceed \$40,000.

Monterey County FSA Office  
744 LaGuardia St #A  
Salinas. CA 93905



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