



## **Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County News** **April/May 2010**

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

### **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/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

### **Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

### **County Committee**

Ed Roth  
Dan Luksik  
Frank LaMacchia  
Nita Gizdich

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

Most of the programs that the Farm Service Agency administers require filing acreage reports by specific deadlines. These reports are used to calculate many program payments and are required to be accurate and filed timely. You should have a copy of your lease on file for the year and the farm that you are farming before or at the time you file your acreage report. The following programs require crop acreage reports: Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP), Direct & Countercyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Loan Deficiency Program (LDP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). Late filed acreage reports may be requested for a fee if the disposition of the crop is evident.

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 Native Grass, CRP acreage, vegetables, orchards, herbs, strawberries, cane berries, certain herbs, etc. )

### **2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)**

Signup has begun for this program which assists producers if they suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year. 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.



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

FSA is now enrolling farms in the 2010 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. Participants also must meet actively engaged in farming provisions to be eligible for this program. Contact the office for an early appointment so you do not miss the deadline! Remember, fall/spring seeded small grain must be reported no later than April 30, 2010.

The ACRE program (Average Crop Revenue Election) began in 2009 and offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, and agree to a 20 percent reduction in direct payments. This option provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2010 crop year. The enrollment date for 2010 ACR is June 1, 2010.

## **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 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, 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 application (Form CCC-471) with signatures and pay the applicable service fee by the application 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 (see dates above).
- 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 grain, grapes, and eligible container nursery. To determine which crops are insurable or non-insurable, contact the county office or a crop insurance agent. 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.

**2011 NAP Closing Dates  
Counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo**

NAP Crops	2011 Application Closing Dates
Fall Planted Seed Crops (Spring & Fall Grains)	August 1, 2010
Value Loss Crops (flowers, aquaculture, Xmas trees)	September 1, 2010
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	September 1, 2010
Garlic (fall planted)	October 1, 2010
Forage Crops/Intended Uses of: Forage HAY- mechanically harvested Forage GZ - grazed	December 1, 2010
Honey	December 1, 2010
Asparagus & Artichokes	December 15, 2010
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, 2010
Apples (non-insurable)	January 31, 2011
Annual Vegetables: Carrots, Squash, Celery, Cauliflowers, Annual Herbs, Broccoli, etc.	March 1, 2011
<b>2012</b> Avocados & Citrus: Limes, Lemons, Oranges, Tangelos, etc.	January 1, 2011

***Direct and Guaranteed Loans***

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

***Census Counts Rural America***

The USDA Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Census Bureau encourage all farmers and ranchers to complete the 2010 census. Census forms mailed in March to all residents in the U.S. and Puerto Rico contain only 10 questions. The census takes only 10 minutes to complete and mail back, postage-paid. Counting everyone is critical to the security of rural communities. It ensures that more than \$400 billion in yearly federal funding is allocated to communities for schools, broadband initiatives, hospitals, emergency services and public works. The census also determines the state's number of seats in the House of Representatives and will affect a state's gain or loss in house seats. Completing the census is not only the law, but a tool to improve your voice on rural issues. Make sure you are counted.

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



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