



Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County News
June 2010

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

USDA Service Center

Monterey, Santa Cruz,
San Mateo County FS
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Salinas, CA 93905
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www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee
Ed Roth
Dan Luksik
Frank LaMacchia
Nita Gizdich

Minority Advisor,
Jose Tony Serrano

2010 County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency County Committee is elected by other farmers and ranchers and help in the delivery of programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the agricultural community. Each year, a specific area is up for election of members for a three-year term of office. Central Monterey County (Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2) is holding elections this year for County Committee representation. This area includes the area between San Lucas north to Gonzales. You may be eligible to hold office if you: (1) participate or cooperate in a program administered by Farm Service Agency, (2) are eligible to vote in a county committee election, (3) and reside in the LAA in which you are a candidate. A person must not have been removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, or removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony, or have been dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services. Eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A, which is available at the USDA Service Center or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. The nomination period has begun and the following are important election dates:

August 2, 2010	Final day to file nomination forms
November 5, 2010	Ballots are mailed to eligible voters
December 6, 2010	Election Day--Last day to return voted ballots to the FSA Office
January 1, 2011	Newly elected members take office

**2010 and 2011 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 remaining dates for 2010 are:

July 15, 2010.....Tree and fruit crops, annual vegetables, orchards, herbs, strawberries, cane berries, certain herbs, Native Grass, CRP acreage, etc. – call the office if you are not sure when to file.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. **Final date to sign up for 2008 losses, 2009 losses, and losses between January 1, 2010 through May 7, 2010 is July 6, 2010.** Losses that occur between May 8, 2010 through September 30, 2011 must be reported within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss is apparent.



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. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to be eligible for program benefits: (1) File zero planted acreage reports on all crops selected for NAP coverage, but not planted; (2) Value loss crops such as aquaculture and flowers must maintain accurate monthly inventories and file acreage reports no later than September 30th of each year; (3) 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; (4) 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; (5) 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 Application Closing Dates (Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties)

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
2012 Avocados & Citrus: Limes, Lemons, Oranges, Tangelos, etc.	January 1, 2011

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)

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. **Important Notice: July 15, 2010 is the deadline for a waiver for late-filed acreage reports for SURE.** Contact the county office for an appointment before the program deadline.

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans up to a maximum of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For details contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign up began on Monday, May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher: (1) Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract; (2) Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements; (3) Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires. Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. Contact County office or www.fsa.usda.gov for more info.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is needed. The reconstitution, or "recon", 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. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon: **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate; **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding; **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract; **Default Method** - the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Controlled Substances: Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for any and all program payments and benefits. If convicted, the participant shall be ineligible for certain programs for specific time periods. Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for up to 5 years after the first conviction, for up to 10 years after the second conviction, and permanently for a third or subsequent conviction. Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, for up to 1 year upon the first conviction, for up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction.

Monterey County FSA Office
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