California
Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA Office

February 2012

USDA Service Center
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Salinas, CA 93905
831-424-7377 (phone)
831-424-7289 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2012 Holiday Office Closures
1/1, 1/16, 2/20, 5/28, 7/4, 9/3, 10/8, 11/12, 11/22, 12/25

County Committee:
Nita Gizdich
Janet Louie
Betty Barrington
Ed Roth

Advisor:
Jose (Tony) Serrano

Si necesita una explicación en Español, por favor llámenos a la oficina

Newsletter Update! Get Gov Delivery for Free News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new Gov-Delivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe In the very near future, newsletters will be distributed electronically only.

2011 FSA County Committee Election Results

The 2011 County Committee elections were held in December for Local Administrative Area (LAA#1). north Monterey County. New members began their term on January 1, 2012. The results of the election are:

Janet Louie, Regular Member
Dan Luksik, 1st Alternate
Jose (Tony) Serrano, 2nd Alternate

Conservation Reserve Program Sign Up 43

A new Conservation Reserve Program sign up will take place beginning *March 12 through April 6, 2012.* CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant or maintain long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and enhance wildlife habitat, and in return receive an annual rental payment. There are both land, ownership and adjusted gross income eligibility requirements for this program. For more information, contact the office early for an appointment and refer to the detailed fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-up 43, March 12-April 6, 2012" at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov.

Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties

To be eligible for almost all FSA program benefits, accurate Crop Acreage Reports (Form FSA-578) are required to be filed by the final reporting date. Timely filing of acreage reports may prevent the loss of benefits. If you have a question about your particular crop reporting requirement, contact the county office. A late-filed acreage report may be filed for a fee and generally requires physical evidence of the crop.

IMPORTANT: ACREAGE REPORTING DATES WILL BE CHANGING FOR MOST CROPS IN JULY FOR THE 2013 CROP YEAR.

2012 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

May 31, 2011……Nursery Crops
September 30, 2011… Value Loss Crops (Flowers, Aquaculture)
January 2, 2012…….Honey
April 30, 2012…… Small seeded grains
July 15, 2012…….Tree & fruit crops, CRP, Annual vegetables, Herbs, native grass.

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)/ACRE Sign Up

Enrollment opened January 23 and ends June 1, 2012. All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm. Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as: Ownership changes, producer or entity changes (Individuals and Entities), and change in crop share arrangements. Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012. To be eligible to participate in DCP a producer must be actively engaged in farming, report all cropland on the farm and meet the adjusted gross income requirements of the program.

2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign up for 2010 SURE continues through June 1, 2012. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

(a) Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

(b) Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm. Note, in 2010, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties do not have secretarial disaster declarations for SURE, and production on the farm must be 50 percent or less than normal production due to a disaster event. Call for more information and an appointment.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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 have a maximum limit of $1,214,000. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office farm loan staff.

2012 California Small Farm Conference

You may still register to attend the annual California Small Farm Conference to be held on March 4-6, 2012, in Valencia, California. This year's theme is "Cultivating the Next Generation." Exciting field courses and workshops will be held for small famers, farmers' market managers, and agricultural students. For more information, go to www.californiafarmconference.com.

Actively Engaged in Farming

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 FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply: (1) 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; and (2) The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed $40,000.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who: Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years, will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA, does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available from farm loan staff. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

FARM LOAN INTEREST RATES FOR FEBRUARY 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill……..0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct……...1.575%
Farm Ownership - Direct……..3.375%
Farm Ownership-Direct Down Payment
Beginning Farmer/Rancher……1.500%
Emergency……3.750%

Hispanic/Women Farmers or Ranchers Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the USDA improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are female or because you are Hispanic, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov. The claims packet will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

!! FINAL 2012 NAP Closing Date: MARCH 1, 2012 (Annuals, such as carrots, squash, broccoli, annual herbs, etc.) !!

2013 Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Application Closing Dates

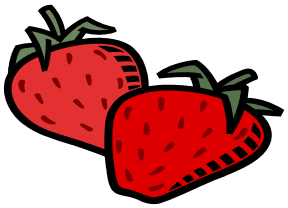
The 2013 closing dates to file applications for coverage for non-insured crops (NAP) crops are listed on the chart below. This is the date that applicable fees must be paid and the application for coverage signed and filed in the county office. Any changes to crop coverage as well as limited resource fee waivers, require the filing of a new application for coverage. NAP covers most non-insurable crops. Second year strawberries, non-irrigated safflower and orchards that have not reached specific fruit bearing ages are no longer covered by NAP. Contact the county office if you have a question about NAP coverage on your specific crop.

2013 CROP YEAR	***Application closing date***
Nursery (non-insurable)	May 1, 2012
Fall Planted Seed Crops (Spring & Fall Grains)	Aug 1, 2012
Value Loss Crops (Flowers, Aquaculture, Xmas trees)	Sept 1, 2012
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass etc.)	Sept 1, 2012
Garlic (fall planted)	Oct 1, 2012
Onions	Dec 1, 2012
Forage Crops, intended use of FG, HAY (mechanically harvested) Forage Crops, intended use of GZ (Grazing)	Dec 1, 2012
Honey	Dec 1, 2012
Asparagus & Artichokes	Dec 15, 2012
Fruit/Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Olives, Peaches, Strawberries, Walnuts, etc.	Dec 15, 2012
Apples (non-insurable)	Jan 31, 2013
Annuals: carrots, squash, broccoli, annual herbs, etc.	March 1, 2013
2014 Avocados & Citrus	Jan 1, 2013

This program is a risk management tool. A crop must have in excess of a 50% loss of production in order to qualify for NAP benefits. NAP fees are $250 per crop per county, not to exceed $750 per county or $1875 total for all crops in all counties. Limited resource farmers may have the application fees waived if they meet county established income levels for gross farm sales and total household income. To utilize the limited resource self determination tool go to: http//:www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov

Some of the provisions and/or eligibility requirements of the NAP program include, but are not limited to:

(a) a producer must have the risk in the crop;
(b) a timely and accurate acreage report must be filed each year by the applicable reporting dates;
(c) for crops experiencing a yield reduction or loss due to adverse weather, a notice of loss must be filed by the ***earlier*** of 15 days of the date of the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes apparent;
(d) prevented planting claims must be filed within 15 days of the final planting date;
(e) timely filing of a notice is required for failed acreage and prevented planting, and is required for all crops including grazed forage;
(f) crops may not be destroyed or disked prior to an inspection to maintain eligibility for NAP benefits;
(g) production records must be filed each year by the earlier of your crop acreage report for the subsequent year, or July 15th. Production records must be maintained for a period of three years;
(h) flower and value loss crop producers are required to maintain and file upon request accurate monthly inventories on their flower crop to maintain eligibility for NAP benefits throughout the year, as their inventory changes;
(i) a producer must have crop losses in excess of 50% due to an eligible adverse weather event in order to quality for benefits.
(j) production records for the loss year must be verifiable or reliable, according to Agency specifications.
(k) All NAP participants are provided a copy of the NAP Basic Provisions which explain NAP program requirements in more detail. If you have misplaced your copy, contact the county office.



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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Some Important dates to remember

March 1, 2012	**2012 NAP Application Deadline, Annual Crops**
March 12 through April 6, 2012	**CRP 43 Sign Up Dates**
April 30, 2012	**2012 Acreage Reporting deadline, fall seeded grains**
June 1, 2012	**2012 DCP/ACRE Deadline**
June 1, 2012	**2010 SURE Deadline to file an application**
July 15, 2012	**2012 Acreage Reporting deadline— other crops** **Contact County Office for specific crops**

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