



June 2010

San Joaquin-Calaveras-Alameda- Contra Costa FSA News

USDA San Joaquin- Calaveras-Alameda- Contra Costa FSA

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

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Sonia Cochrane, PT
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COC MEMBERS
Rudy Mussi - Pres
Patti Spence - V Pres
Kevin Delu
Scott Beyer
John Ginochio
Norm Hertlein
Johan Bartelink
Glenn Stonebarger



FSA COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2011 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 2, 2010 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be post-marked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 5, 2010. The completed ballots are due back at the local county office by Dec. 6, 2010 either via mail or in person.

The following LAA's (Local Administrative Areas) are up for election:

LAA 1 - San Joaquin County west of Interstate 5.

LAA 5 - Calaveras County east of Highway 49.

LAA 8 - Alameda County north of Highway 580.

ANTHONY CASTELLO

We are saddened to share with our farming community the death of Alameda County Committee member, Anthony Castello, on May 24, 2010.

Since 1990, Anthony served on our committee representing his fellow ranchers of Alameda County. His presence and input will be missed.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In California, the producer certification deadline for Spring Planted crops is **July 15**.

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report, 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 Load Deficiency Payments.

Producers are required to file FSA-578 by the applicable final reporting date (April 30 for fall seeded crops and July 15 for spring seeded and/or permanent crops). To be considered timely filed, acreage reports for prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the:

- Final reporting date for the applicable crop;
- Failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

Farm visits will not be required if claims can be verified, and all other requirements are met.

PREVENTED PLANTING AND/OR FAILED ACREAGE

For 2010, the County committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage, if timely filed by July 15, 2010. Farm visits will not be required if claims can be verified, and all other requirements are met.

NAP COVERAGE

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are coming up as early as **August 1, 2010**. Contact your local office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for deadlines and details for your crops. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

Producers who already have coverage of 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. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage, or are changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is \$250 per crop or up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees.

Producers with 2010 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.
- Submit previous year's production by acreage reporting date of current year.

2010 NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES

CROPS	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
Multi Planting Periods 01, 02, 03	8-1-2010	Multi Planting counties Only
FALL PLANTED SEED CROPS	8-1-2010	Includes all grain fall or spring
Garlic Fall Planted	10-1-2010	Counties with fall planted Garlic
Forage Seed Crops (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, etc)	9-1-2009	ALL Counties
Forage Crops, Intended use of GZ, Grazing	12-1-2009	ALL Counties

- NAP coverage is NOT available on any crop that is insurable in the county at any level of maturity (No more young orchards)
- Nursery Crops are Insurable in ALL California Counties. (your crop coverage can be verified by a Crop Ins. Agent for your county)
- For annual crops, coverage begins the later of either of the following:
 - 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed
 - OR
 - The date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SIGNUP

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) signup for orchardists and nursery tree growers began Monday, May 10, 2010 at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

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. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible under prior legislation. Trees grown for pulp or timber are not eligible. To be eligible, 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 can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or insurance plan under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or for 2008 have obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

For more information on the new TAP program, contact your county FSA office or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation:

DATE OF LOSS	Final Date to Submit an Application & Supporting Documentation
Calendar Year 2008	July 6, 2010
Calendar Year 2009	July 6, 2010
January 1, 2010 to May 7, 2010	July 6, 2010
May 8, 2010 to September 30, 2011	Within 90 calendar days from the later of the disaster event or the date when the loss of trees, bushes or vines is apparent.

More information on TAP is available at local FSA county offices and on FSA's website: <http://www.fsa.gov/tap>



SURE PROGRAM

The County Office is currently taking applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue.

Please call the county office at (209) 472-7127 to schedule an appointment.

FSA FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency (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 elsewhere. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers may have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or may have limited resources.

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 \$1,094,000. 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 on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a

supervised program of work as outlined above

- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

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 than 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 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

San Joaquin-Calaveras-
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 County FSA Office
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 Stockton CA 95219



**PRESORTED STANDARD
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 PERMIT #22**

Dates to Remember	
July 6, 2010	Final date to apply for 2008, 2009 and 1-1-10 thru 5-7-10 TAP
July 15, 2010	Final date to report Spring planted crops
Aug. 2, 2009	Deadline to file COC Nomination
Continues	SURE 2008 Sign-Ups

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