

April 9, 2008

Newsletter 3

**U.S. Department of  
Agriculture**

**Farm Service Agency  
San Luis Obispo County**  
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Websites:

FSA: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
USDA: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Farm Bill:  
[www.usda.gov.farbill](http://www.usda.gov.farbill)

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

**County Committee:**

**Michael Strauss  
Lonnie Twisselman  
Tom Ikeda**

**Advisor:**

**Mario Castaneda**

**County Executive Director:**

**Jennifer L. Anderson**

**Office Staff:**

Jody Gouff, PT  
Stacy Alcorn, PT  
Caitlyn Madrid, PT  
Jose Guevara, PT  
Adrian Foster, PT  
Johnny Cardoza, PT

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*San Luis Obispo County*  
**FSA NEWS**

***Crop Disaster Program***

Signup underway for 2005, 2006, 2007 years



The Farm Service Agency office is accepting applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 OR 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Quality losses must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. No ending date has been announced for the signup.

In order for us to provide better customer service to you, please call us for an appointment at (805) 434-0398 ext 2, prior to coming into the office.

***Livestock Compensation Program***

The ***Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)*** compensates livestock producers for feed losses on non-irrigated grazing/pasture land resulting from the 2007 drought. Signup for LCP began on September 10, 2007. An ending signup date has not been established.

The following are among the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits.

**NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINES  
APPROACHING**

Deadlines for the 2009 and 2010 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage's are quickly approaching.



The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers on non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be non-insurable crops and agricultural commodities for which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

At the time of application, producers must pay a nonrefundable service fee for the eligible NAP crop by the application closing date. The cost is \$100 per crop per producer with a \$300 cap per county, not to exceed \$900 per producer.

**The 2009 application closing dates for San Luis Obispo County is summarized for the specific crops as shown below:**

NAP Crops	2009 Application Closing Dates
All Vegetable Crops	Aug. 1, 2008
Fall Planted Seed Crops	Aug. 1, 2008
Forage/Hay Crops	Sept. 1, 2008
Grazing Acreage	Sept. 1, 2008
Garbanzo Beans	Sept. 1, 2008
Value Loss Crops (ie. Cut Flowers)	Sept. 1, 2008
Strawberries	Oct. 1, 2008
Honey, Onions	Dec. 1, 2008
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Cane berries, Kiwis, Persimmons, Cherries, Mint, Olives, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Pistachios, Plums, Walnuts	Dec. 15, 2008
2010 Citrus Crops (2-6 years old)	Jan. 1, 2009
2010 Avocados (3-6 years old only)	Jan. 1, 2009
All other annual Crops	March 1, 2009

Once a NAP application (CCC-471 form) is approved by the County FSA Office, it provides continuous coverage and will remain in effect for each crop year unless the producer elects to cancel the coverage or fails to pay the application administrative fees before the application closing date.

**Production Report Dates:** Producers must provide the FSA Office with production records for all crops in which an acreage report is filed. This production must be

reported no later than the immediately subsequent crop year acreage reporting date for the crop.

**Notice of Loss:** To be eligible for a NAP payment, producers must notify the FSA Office within 15 calendar days after a disaster has affected the NAP crop and complete a CCC-573 Notice of Loss Form.

**Acreage Reporting**

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are to be certified by the acreage reporting deadline. All Small Grains must be certified by the **April 30, 2008** deadline and all other crops must be certified by **July 15, 2008** including **zero acreage planted reports**. Remember if you purchased NAP coverage and did not plant the crop you are still required to report that crop as zero acreage planted or you will have a reduction in your actual production history which will result in a reduction of benefits.

**Salinas Watershed Conservation Security  
Program Sign-Up**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be holding a sign-up for the Conservation Security Program from April 18 - May 16, 2008. Agricultural producers in the Salinas Watershed (excluding the Estrella Watershed) are eligible to apply. Come learn more about this program that provides payments to ag producers for good stewardship practices on farms and ranches at a public information **meeting on Thursday April 24, 2008**. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8 pm at the San Miguel Community Center located at 256 13th St. (behind the library) in San Miguel.

Please contact the NRCS at the USDA Service Center in Templeton (805-434-0396 x 3) with any questions.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Congratulations to **Tom Ikeda** who was recently elected to serve on the San Luis Obispo County FSA Committee for Local Administrative Area 1. (LAA 1)



A special thanks goes out to **Reymondo Manuel** for three years of service as a County Committee member. Reymondo Manuel provided invaluable service as a County Committee member and showed commitment and dedication to the farmers he served.

Our FSA Office appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.



## FSA Signature Authority



Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc.,

must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. **FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.**

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

## Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebate offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.



RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers & agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: **1-800-424-9121**.

## Farm Bill Extended Until April 18



Passage of the farm bill, currently being debated by Congress, has been delayed, requiring a 33-day extension that was recently passed and signed by President George W. Bush.

“America’s farmers deserve better than a series of short-term extensions here of our current law,” says Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer. “They need to know what farm policy is going to be so that they can make sound business decisions about what to plant this year and how they are going to finance it.”

The current farm bill will now extend to April 18. Congress will have until that date to pass a consolidated bill.

## Dates to Remember

<b>April 30, 2008</b>	Acres Reporting Date – Small Grains
<b>July 15, 2008</b>	Acres Reporting Date for all crops except Small Grains, including CRP
<b>Not yet announced</b>	Signup Deadline Date for LCP & CDP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency  
San Luis Obispo County FSA Office  
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Templeton, CA. 93465

#### **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (805) 434-0398 Ext. 2.

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS**

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD)*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*