



**California
Santa Barbara-Ventura
County FSA Office**

November 2010

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

**Santa Barbara-Ventura
County Staff**

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County Executive Director

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Farm Loan Officer

Victor Manuel Hernandez
Farm Loan Officer Trainee

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

NAP Deadline

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops and note that for some disaster assistance programs, crop insurance or NAP coverage is required for all crops on the farm.

2011 NAP Application Closing Date	
Forage Crops, Intended Use of FG, Hay (Mechanically Harvested) Forage Crops, Intended Use of GZ, Grazing	12/1/2010
Honey	12/1/2010
Asparagus & Artichokes	12/15/2010
Fruit-Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Cane Berries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Walnuts	12/15/2010 NAP coverage is no longer available for insured crops that have not reached age.
Apples	1/31/2011
Annuals: Squash, carrots, etc.	3/1/2011
2012 NAP Application Closing Date	
2012 Avocados & Citrus: Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Grapefruit, Tangelos, etc.	1/1/2011

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close

of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

This year the candidate is Tom Thompson who is nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, in Santa Barbara County, to serve as a committee member. Thompson resides in Santa Maria and has been a hay grower and cattle rancher for 38 years. He is also an active member of the Santa Barbara County Cattleman's Association.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area #3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements : Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):
 - a) an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
 - b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper;
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of funding status.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) - SURE provides benefits for 2009 through 2011 crop year on farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. SURE is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to prior crop disaster programs. The 2009 Sign up is expected to begin in mid December. Please call our office if you have any questions or to make an appointment.



Disaster Programs / Risk Management

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

CCC-927 or -928 Disclosure Form Needed by IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form", or CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity" Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint

operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications

Farmers that plan to apply for annual operating loan assistance are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Farmers should contact their local FSA office for information.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

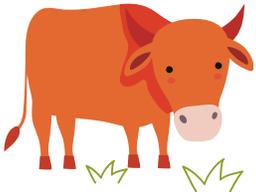


New Financial Management Web Page Available for Producers

Producers who have level 2 e-Authentication access can use the new <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-Authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license



Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Disaster Program: Livestock Forage (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

As authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the LFP provides recovery assistance to livestock producers suffering grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire up to October 1, 2011.

The LFP program is activated in drought areas when the National Drought Monitor records a drought of D2 or more severe for the area. Assistance levels increase with the severity of drought designation.

For 2010 and subsequent years, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria

NOTE: For both LFP and ELAP, deadlines have passed for 2008 and 2009 loss filing. For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign up ends Jan. 30, 2011 (30 days after the end of the loss year.)

Farm Storage Facility Loan

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial payment will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final payment will be made when construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.



Farm Safety Tips

Don't wear loose clothing around moving machine parts like PTOs, or while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers.

- Use seat belts while operating farm machinery.
- Do not allow children or any additional passengers on the tractor with you. Be a role model for your children by practicing safety and obeying laws.
- Noise is a common factor in farm-related injuries and can lead to hearing loss. Wear ear protection while working around loud noise.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating- Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loan- Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership- Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

Dates To Remember	
Nov. 5	County Committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 1	NAP deadline for Forage Crops intended use of Forage & Grazing, & Honey
Dec. 6	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
Dec. 15	NAP deadline for Fruit-Nut Tree Crops