



January 2010

Solano-Napa FSA News

USDA
Solano-Napa Co FSA
1170 N Lincoln St #109
Dixon CA 95620

707-678-1931 phone
707-678-5001 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

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

County Staff
Lynda Janne, CED
Laura VanHoose
Bonita Nogales
Robert Currey
Jan Durante

County Committee
Scheduled Meetings
2nd Wednesday of each
month, 1:00 PM
1170 N Lincoln St, #109
Dixon CA 95620

County Committee
Linda Neal LAA1
Richard Hamilton LAA2
Tom Galindo LAA3
Craig Nakahara Advisor



COC Elections

LAA 3 voters elected Tom Galindo as their new COC representative. Jeanine Holdener will serve as 1st alternate. Farmer-elected representatives serve 3 year terms, not to exceed nine consecutive years.

Craig Gnos has represented the LAA 3 farmers for the past 3 terms (9 years). He was a very conscientious COC member and was of great assistance to the county office staff. We thank you, Craig, for your willingness to help, your support and dedication.

We also thank all the voters who took the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through **June 1, 2010**. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Nearly Useless Factoid

The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is classified as "critically endangered", one step away from being extinct in the wild, and reproduces once every 20 years.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

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

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the 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 a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

SIGNUP BEGINS FOR SURE

The Solano-Napa FSA Office will be taking appointments for the 2008 crop loss SURE program beginning Monday, January 4, 2010.

Many farmers have been contacting this office for several months, waiting for this program announcement. We will be contacting producers who have already been in our office with their loss information; however, you are encouraged to call 707-678-1931 ext 2 to schedule an appointment.

If it has not already been done, you will need to complete eligibility paperwork in addition to providing us (and every other county in which you have any crop interest) with your 2008 acreage reports.

Acreage Reports Needed For SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are reminded that 2008 crop reports are required for SURE participation. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acreage reports. However, evidence of existence or disposition is required.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest
- late filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.

The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

2009 Wool/Pelts Deadline

January 29, 2010 is the final date to submit your request for a LDP on 2009 wool or unshorn pelts.



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. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers that plan to apply to the FSA for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer at 209-472-7127 for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

RECORD CHANGES

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. *It is the producer's responsibility* to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation including, but not limited to land ownership changes, adding or dropping a tract of land (leases), entity type or ID number changes, marriage, divorce, deaths or changes in financial institution receiving electronic fund transfers. A copy of the deed must be submitted for ownership changes; copies of written lease agreements must be submitted for all cash and share leases.



Lynda Bonnie Jan
 Laura Bob

Solano/Napa Co FSA
 1170 N Lincoln St #109
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PRESORTED STANDARD
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 PERMIT #22

Dates to Remember	
Jan 4	SURE 2008 Sign-Up Begins
Jan 18	CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 29	Deadline to request 2009 wool/pelt LDP
Feb 16	CLOSED – George Washington Day
Mar 1	NAP Coverage Deadline – spring-seeded annuals
Apr 30	Last Day to timely file fall-seeded crop report
May 31	CLOSED – Memorial Day
June 1	DCP Contract Deadline
July 5	CLOSED – Independence Day
July 15	Last Day to timely file spring-seeded and perennial crop report

Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

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.

Selected Interest Rates for December 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.750%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.00% to 3.625% depending on term
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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