



# NEWSLETTER



## Solano-Napa FSA Office

October 2010

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

## Solano-Napa County Committee

Linda Neal, LAA 1  
Richard Hamilton, LAA 2  
Tom Galindo, LAA 3  
Craig Nakahara, Advisor

## Staff

Lynda Janne, CED  
Laura VanHoose, PT  
Bonita Nogales, PT  
Bob Currey, Field

## 2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for eligible 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 8, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments.

You will not receive payment unless you have completed the required eligibility paperwork. Contact this office for more information.

## 2011 NAP Coverage Deadline

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**Dec 1, 2010 is the last day to purchase coverage on your forage (grazing or hay). By filing an application and paying the administrative fee, your native grazing land is covered in case of drought, and you are also eligible for the Livestock Forage program.**

*Dec 1 is also the deadline for honey crop coverage (and ELAP eligibility).*

**If you have tree crops that are not insurable (cherries, olives, etc), the NAP coverage deadline is Dec 15, 2010.**



## FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more. See the following page for information direct from the NRCS staff.

## County Committee Elections (NAPA county only)

Starting early next month, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Mailing of ballots to all eligible voters starts on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, contact this office to get one.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.

# NRCS EQIP Applications Through November 12

## From SOLANO NRCS:

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) are programs authorized in the 2007 Farm Bill to provide a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address significant natural resource concerns. EQIP provides technical, financial, and education assistance to address natural resource concerns.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for EQIP and WHIP and works with local partners including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Resource Conservation Districts, Local Irrigation Districts and Cooperative Extension to set the program's priorities and guidelines.

In Solano County, conservation and enhancement practices that address these Priority Resource Concerns will receive the highest priority:

- *Soil Quality*
- *Air Quality*
- *Soil Erosion greater than (T) tolerable level*
- *Water Quantity (Water Conservation)*
- *Water Quality (Sediment, Nutrients, Pesticides, Herbicides)*
- *Grazing Land Sustainability*
- *Upland Wildlife Habitat*
- *Wetland Habitat*

WHIP offers cost shares to establish or enhance wildlife habitat using native vegetation species and supporting practices such as fencing to protect habitat. Habitats of rare and endangered species are the highest priority.

Applications will be ranked based on conservation practices contained in an approved conservation plan and their benefit to the environment. Approved conservation practices, ranking criteria, and other program details for Solano County can be discussed with the NRCS staff: Jim Schneider, Sally Negroni, or Walt Cheechov, 1170 N Lincoln St. Suite 110 in Dixon. The phone number is 707 678-1655 ext 3. To be eligible for EQIP during this funding cycle, the applicant must have applied for Conservation Planning Assistance by **November 12, 2010**.

## From NAPA NRCS:

We are now approaching the deadline for farm and ranch applications for the 2011 Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP) for Napa County farms and ranches.

New changes in federal farm bill programs now provide flat rate payments instead of the traditional cost-sharing percentage format in past years. A few examples of projects we assist with include:

- *Compliance practices for the Napa River TMDL state water board regulations*
- *Vineyard cover crops*
- *Streambank stabilization and riparian Pierce's Disease management*
- *Livestock watering and fence systems for grazing management*
- *Irrigation water management and improved efficiency systems*
- *Forest and brush fuel load management*
- *\*NEW- Organic certification financial assistance*
- *Integrated pest management and beneficial insectary plantings*
- *Farm and ranch water quality protection systems*
- *Erosion control systems for vineyards*
- *Farm road improvements for erosion control management*
- *Development and enhancement of farm edge natural habitat*
- *Pest Management "soft spray" and mating disruptor treatments*

Our agency is charged with providing free-of-charge technical consultations and financial assistance to encourage adoption of sustainable farming technology and conservation land use. We also provide planning services and assistance with preparation of any necessary permits for your project.

Give us a call for more information on our programs and eligibility requirements. The deadline is rapidly approaching for this year (**Nov 12, 2010**), so we encourage you to contact us soon! You can reach us at 707-252-4189, or email us at [phillip.blake@ca.usda.gov](mailto:phillip.blake@ca.usda.gov). Our office is located at 1303 Jefferson St., Suite 500B in Napa.

## 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.

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

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

## Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for more information: <https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

## Farm Storage Facility Loan

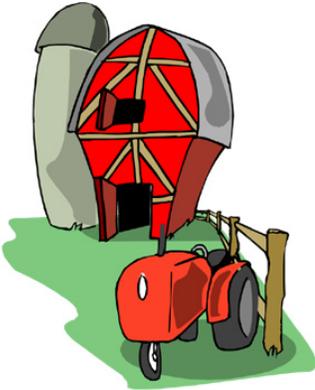
The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

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, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.





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### 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 October 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership	5.000%
Conservation Loan (NEW)	5.000%
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. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 12	EQIP Deadline (NRCS)
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 1	Deadline to purchase NAP for forage (grazing, hay) and for honey
Dec. 6	VOTE (LAA1) Last day to mail ballot
Dec. 15	Deadline to purchase NAP for tree crops