



# NEWSLETTER



January 2011

## Solano-Napa FSA Office

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.

**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 Nogaes, PT  
Bob Currey, Field

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Incumbent Linda Neal has been voted in to serve another 3-year term as the LAA1 representative on the County Committee for Solano-Napa. Philip Robbins, a write-in, will serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate on the FSA Committee for LAA 1.

The agency is very appreciative of these dedicated growers who are willing to give of their time and energy to serve as representatives and to assist the county office staff in relaying FSA program information to their fellow farmers. We also thank the voters who took the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

**Congratulations** to Linda Neal and Philip Robbins.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by FSA. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hail, winter storm, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

For 2010 and subsequent years losses, livestock owners and contract growers that suffer a loss of livestock shall file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of the following dates:
  - 30 Calendar Days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant
  - 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred

**Our office urges ranchers to take pictures and/or get other documentation from outside interests.**

## 2009 SURE SIGNUP: starts JANUARY 10, 2011

The signup period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program began on January 10, 2011. SURE is one of five disaster programs included in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm must have:

- ✓ at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance
- ✓ a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops
- ✓ been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without the disaster designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50% of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without insurance or NAP.

**This office is now accepting appointments to assess your 2009 crop losses. Please call us at 707-678-1931 ext 2.**

## 2009 SURE here now!!!

***Call Us Now for  
an appointment to  
enroll in DCP  
and/or for farm  
unit changes!!!***

## **DCP/ACRE Advance Payments**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment **are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011.**

## **Record Changes**

**Participation in FSA programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of any changes to the farming operation, including but not limited to land ownership changes, adding or losing leases, entity type or ID number changes, etc.**

## **LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts and Wool**

Eligible producers have **until Jan 31, 2011**, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts and wool **produced during the 2010 crop year.**

To be eligible for unshorn pelts, producers must a) have beneficial interest in the pelts, b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

To be eligible for wool LDP, producers must have beneficial interest in the wool, produced & shorn from live domestic animals during 2010.

Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in, a report of grazing land must be on file, along with certification of adjusted gross income.

## **Crop Reports Due**

Fall-seeded planted acreages are due to be reported **no later than April 30, 2011.** Most programs offered through FSA (DCP, NAP, ELAP, SURE, LDP's, etc) require crop plantings to be reported in a timely manner.

The report for spring/perennial crops is due July 15, 2011.

## **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.

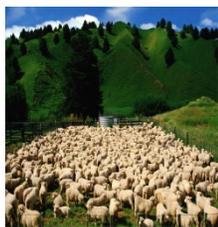
Contact this Service Center for more information.

## **Farm Loan Programs**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that the application and loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.



***IMPORTANT  
DEADLINES***



## ANNUAL NOTICES

### Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

### AGI Compliance

Adjusted Gross Income must be certified by submitting a CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) statement annually for any producer requesting benefits. In addition, USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the IRS by which all participants must provide consent for the use/disclosure of tax information to USDA agencies by completing and submitting a release form (CCC-927 for an individual or CCC-928 for an entity) directly to IRS.

### Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance

Participants in USDA programs are reminded that in order to receive payments, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plans. It is very important that you contact our office before modifying (tilling, draining, dredging, filling, leveling) any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

### Foreign Buyers Notice

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not US citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county, are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form FSA-153 could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

**County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.**

### PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY

Payments and benefits under certain programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule
- average AGI limitations

No program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:

- **all** required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made

Payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by the producer.

After 2009, a farm operating plan is **not** required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office

If any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average AGI determination, producers **must** timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation.

There are statutory provisions that require entities, earning program benefits that are subject to limitation, to provide the names, addresses, and TIN's of the entities' members

All applicable payment eligibility and payment limitation forms submitted by producers are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process.

A determination of **not** actively engaged in farming results in the producer being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a determination of actively engaged in farming.

Noncompliance with AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or by failure to submit a certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for **all** program benefits subject to AGI provisions.



PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Davis, CA  
 PERMIT #22

### Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving to an electronic method for processing checks from producers. 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) and debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the USDA Service Center office or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

| Selected Interest Rates – December 2010                           |        |
|---|--------|
| Farm Operating - Direct   | 1.750% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct   | 4.125% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500% |
| Conservation Loan   | 4.125% |
| Emergency   | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-yr                                  | 2.0%   |
| 10-yr   | 2.75%  |
| 12-yr   | 3.0%   |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present                                      | 1.25%  |

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Jan 10            | 2009 SURE Sign-Up Starts   |
| Jan 17            | Office Closed: Federal Holiday<br>Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's birthday |
| Jan 31            | 2010 final LDP availability date for Wool/Pelts                              |
| Feb 21            | Office Closed: Federal Holiday<br>Celebrate George Washington's birthday     |
| Mar 1             | NAP Coverage Deadline for Annuals  |
| April 30          | Deadline to timely file fall-seeded acreage report                           |
| June 1            | DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline   |

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