



NEWSLETTER



**October 2010
Issue #1
FY 2011**

**Sonoma-Marín
County FSA Office**
1301 Redwood Way Suite 190
Petaluma, CA 94954

707-664-8593 phone
707-794-7902 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

**2010 Sonoma-Marín
County Committee Members:**

*Craig Jacobsen, Chair
Richard Grossi, Vice Chair
Phil Dolcini, Member
Diane Starkey, Member
Jeff Jones, Member
Tito Sasaki, Minority Advisor*

Lisa V. Velasquez,
County Executive Director

Karri Bartolomei
Farm Loan Officer
Located in Ukiah Office
707-468-9225

Debbie Castle,
Program Technician

Cecilia Medina,
Program Technician

2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 1, 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 are about to receive.

2011 ACRE Signup

The enrollment period for the 2011 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) runs from Oct. 1, 2010 – June 11, 2011.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed).

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.

County Committee Elections

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 the county FSA 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.



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 is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.)

Disaster Program: Livestock, Bees, Fish (ELAP)

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

ELAP originated from the 2008 Farm bill to assist producers with losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible

livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss (file within 30 days of loss)
2. Application for payment (sign up before 1/30/11)

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

2010 Wool/Mohair/Pelts (Unshorn Lambs) Deadline Date January 31, 2011.

Urgent! Please Read!

Notification Letters from USDA

Producers are now receiving letters to notify them of their requirement to file CCC-927(individual) or CCC-928(entity) with the IRS. Forms are available on-line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccc927> for individuals and at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccc928> for the legal entity form, or at any FSA or NRCS Office.

Not filing timely could delay or interrupt any future program payments or benefits. Please mail completed forms to:

Internal Revenue Service-USDA
P. O. Box 24033
Fresno, CA 93779

If you received a letter and do not understand what it is for, please call this office and get your forms filed today! 707-664-8593.

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.

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.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center 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>

Get Ahead for 2009, 2010, and 2011 Programs!

Want your payments to be processed faster? Plan ahead now and be ahead later.

We know now some 2009 and 2010 crops had losses, if you are planning on filing for a 2009, 2010, and 2011 FSA or NRCS program, get ahead now!

About 95% of all programs require general eligibility certifications and filings, now is the time to file those documents that are needed to qualify for payments. Avoid the long delay after a program sign up to get your benefits and take a little time to get your farm records in order now. Call for your appointment today!

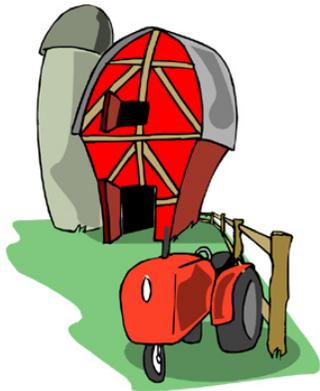
Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) Program Phase 3 Payments

An additional payment was released in fiscal year 2011 on Oct 12, 2010. This payment is in addition to the previous DELAP payments in fiscal year 2010.

Payments were calculated at .019513 per hundredweight on production of commercially marketed milk produced between February and July 2009.

No application to receive DELAP program benefits is required if a dairy operation or producer's records are currently available in the FSA county office from previous participation in a fiscal year 2009 dairy program administered by FSA.

Payments range from a maximum of \$1170.78 or less depending on whether or not producers reached the maximum milk production of 6 million pounds during that time span. Dairies check your bank accounts for this additional payment!



Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

Sonoma-Marín County FSA Office
 1301 Redwood Way Suite 190
 Petaluma, CA 94954



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Get more info at this website:

www.californiafarmconference.com

Scholarships Available!

USDA Food Drive—Feds, Farmers, and Friends Feed Families June 23rd to August 31st

THANK YOU to:

Sonoma-Marín USDA Agencies, FSA, NRCS and RD, special thanks to Sonoma County Ag. Commissioner's office and So Sonoma County RCD, Sonoma and Marin Applebee's Restaurants, Sonoma and Marin Starbucks, and the Petaluma Market. We collected fresh produce as well as nonperishable items. **Thank you to everyone who participated for making our food drive a success!**

The total amount collected was 876 lbs!

413 lbs went to the Redwood Empire Food Bank; 85lbs went to the Marin Community Food Bank and 378 lbs went to the Petaluma Kitchen.

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%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.125-2.875%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 1	2011 NAP Forage Crops for Grazing (Pasture) & for Hay or FG (Mechanically Harvested), Honey, Onions
Dec. 15	Fruit-Nut Tree Crops (No young trees) Asparagus, Artichokes,

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.