



November 2010

Stanislaus -Tuolumne County Farm Service Agency Office

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E
Modesto, CA 95358
Phone (209) 491-9320 ext 2
Fax (209) 491-9331

Hours

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

County Committee (COC)

David Santos, Chairman
Kurt Erickson, Vice Chair
Dave Wheeler, Member
Stuart Crook, Member
Dale Matney, 1st Alternate
Mary Blake, 1st Alternate
Tina Nunes, Advisor
Miguel Garcia, Advisor

Next COC Meeting:

December 9th, 2010

Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED
Joni Worley, PT
Carmen Cardenas, PT
Maria Juárez, PT
Latisha Kahn, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Suzie Wilson, State Specialist
John Oosterman, FLM
Joe Enos, FLO
Alma Jaquez, PT
Lupe Mims, PT

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA office.



2011 NAP Coverage

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.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops can choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who do not already have coverage may purchase insurance by the applicable closing dates as well. **2011 NAP application closing dates are as follows:**

Crops	Closing Date
Forage Crops/Hay/Native Rangeland (Intended use of Grazing & Forage, i.e. Oats & Wheat) Onions Honey	12/1/2010
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops (i.e. Kiwi, Cane berries) Strawberries	12/15/2010
2012 Avocados & Citrus	1/1/2011

As a reminder, producers who have NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Notify our office within 15 days of a qualifying loss or within 15 days of the loss being apparent.
- Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- **Timely file acreage reports as follows:**

Crops	Deadline Date
Bee Hives	1/2/2011
Fall / Winter planted crops (oats, wheat, etc.)	4/30/2011
Spring / Summer planted crops & native grass (corn, permanent plantings, etc.)	7/15/2011

Prevented Planting Certification

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage (with proper equipment) by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. If you are unable to plant your crop due to an adverse weather disaster and would like to certify your acreage to prevented planting with the Farm Service Agency, you will be required to do the following:

- Report the acreage and file the CCC-576 within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the specified crop
- Supply crop insurance indemnity information to FSA once received, if applicable

Some insurance companies request that producers who file prevented planting claims have a corresponding acreage certification on file with FSA. For FSA purposes, the only programs currently available for payment on prevented planting are NAP and SURE (if insured); however, it is always beneficial to maintain history on a farm for future Farm Bill program purposes.

Vote for County Committee!

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, we are electing LAA #1 which covers north of the Tuolumne River & east of Highway 99, including Valley Home, Knights Ferry, Riverbank, Oakdale and Waterford.

Below is a chance to get to know the nominees:

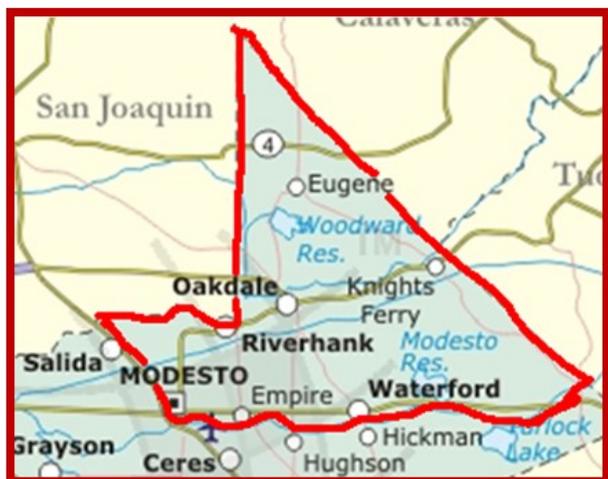
Anita Moran Slicton: Currently resides in Farmington. Anita has always been involved in Ag and is a 4th generation California Beef producer. As a child, Anita was very involved in 4-H. She attended the University of San Francisco and received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Organizational Behavior (Management Field) and also has her Certified Administrative Manager Credential. Anita is the Managing Partner of Moran Ranch which is a rice and cattle operation, and is the Sole Proprietor of Slicton Cattle Co. which is a commercial beef producer. She is an active member in the Calaveras, San Joaquin & Stanislaus County Cattlemen's Associations, Stanislaus Farm Bureau and for the last 10 years has served as a Director of the Rock Creek Water District. Along with her ranching background, Anita has been involved with row-crop farming through family member's operations in San Joaquin County.

Christopher Mayfield: Currently reside in Riverbank with his wife, Angela. Chris grew up helping out on his uncle's property which began his interest in farming. Chris has been the owner/operator of an organic farm for the last 3 years, where he has grown fruit and citrus trees along with a few other specialty crops. In the next few years, Chris plans on transitioning their operation to include vegetable crops, including tomatoes and squash, and also plans to experiment with new crops not commonly grown in the area. He is spending time researching and studying different crops to prepare for this venture. One of Chris' goals is to help introduce farming to kids who have not grown up in the agricultural community, to help them experience and learn more about where different foods comes from and how they are grown.

Larry Byrd: Born in Modesto, raised on a family dairy in West Modesto, and has resided in Stanislaus County his entire life. Larry has owned/operates a cow/calf operation for over 30 years, running on 3,500 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated pasture. He worked for Modesto Irrigation District for 35 years in the electrical and irrigation divisions. Larry also has experience in growing Almonds, operating the ranch with his son, Billy. Larry is an active member of Blue Diamond Growers, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, California Cattlemen's Association, Stanislaus-Tuolumne Cattlemen's Association, R-Calf U.S.A & Lions Club International; He is also a past member of the Shiloh/Paradise 4H group and Modesto High School F.F.A.

Joanne De Raadt: Currently resides in Oakdale, where she and her husband, John, run a 900 cow dairy operation. Joanne studied Biology and Accounting while in college and then married into the family dairy business about 22 years ago. They lived on and operated a dairy in San Diego County for 16 years and now have an operation in Oakdale. Joanne has experience and knowledge in all aspects of running a dairy, from raising calves to the bookkeeping and management. She also has experience in growing corn and winter forage. She is an active member of the Western United Dairywomen Leadership Class.

Linda Santos: Currently resides in the Waterford/Oakdale area and runs a cattle ranch with her husband, Brady. Linda is from the Basso Family of La Grange and has been involved in ranching most of her life. Linda majored in Ag Science and Forestry at Modesto Junior College and has stayed involved with the family ranch while raising their five children. Her experience ranges from operating/owning a dairy and cattle ranch to managing Norman's Nursery in Linden. Recently, Linda and her husband have converted some of their property to rice ground, which has expanded her knowledge to include rice growing practices.



Election Dates to Remember:

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Ballots must be received by the county office or postmarked

Jan. 1, 2011 - The newly elected county committee member will take office

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
AND VOTE!**

Tax Information Consent Forms

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, commonly referred to as the 2008 Farm Bill, provides average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations for participants who enroll in certain farm programs.

In December of 2009, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) formed a partnership to insure that only those participants who comply with AGI requirements receive farm program benefits. In order to verify that you are eligible for farm program benefits, you must complete the applicable consent forms to allow IRS to average your AGI for the three applicable tax years and provide FSA information on whether or not your average AGI meets or does not meet limitation amounts.

A notification letter was mailed on October 6, 2010, by the National Office, to participants who have not filed the CCC-927 or CCC-928.

If you received this letter please contact our office immediately to obtain the necessary forms to insure you are not deemed ineligible for 2009 & 2010 benefits.

ELAP

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (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 wildfires caused by natural occurrence. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by LIP, LFP, or SURE.

Physical losses of honey bees due to adverse weather or natural occurrence (such as colony collapse) 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.

Note that acreage (hive) certifications timely filed with our office can be used to satisfy this requirement.

- All ELAP Notices of Loss are due no later than 30 days after the loss is apparent
- **2010 Application for Payment are due by Jan 30, 2011**
- **2011 Hive certifications are due by Jan 2, 2011**

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or just general questions about the program, please contact Joni at 209-491-9320 ext 124.

FSA Financial Services Website

The Farm Service Agency would like to announce a new web page to assist customers with their FSA Financial needs. The FSA Financial Services website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Registered producers may view summary and detail information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans), and CCC-1099-G. Registered producers may enter their own information to assign a payment to a third party, request that a payment be made jointly to the producer and a third party, or route their program payments to their account at a financial institution.

To have access to this website a producer must sign up for an e-Authentication Level 2 Account with the USDA.

To register online, please go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov or to find out more information about what FSA Financial Services has to offer please go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi/>.

2011 DCP Signup

The 2011 DCP program year has begun and appointment notifications are being mailed. Appointments have been scheduled starting November 1st, 2010 to enroll in the program and certify fall planted crops.

Please remember you will need to supply our FSA office with any of the following, if applicable:

- New leases or deeds for property that has been added to your farming operation (which has eligible base acres)
- Current rental agreements for property you will be enrolling (if existing agreements will expire before September 30, 2011)
- Updated partnership papers/operating agreements if there have been changes to members and/or shares
- New bank account information (if the account has changed since last year or you are a new participant)

If you have any question regarding your current/future DCP contracts or eligibility information, please contact Carmen or Maria at 209-491-9320.

2011 ACRE Signup

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

As an alternative to DCP, 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 market 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, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans) & rice.

Please contact Carmen for more information at 209-491-9320 ext 109.

Stanislaus -Tuolumne
 County FSA Office
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste E.
 Modesto, CA 95358



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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. If check are mailed, the check will be held for 14 calendar days to insure that the item was successful processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

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>

Important Dates to Remember

November	2011 DCP/ACRE Signup starts
11/5/2010	Election ballots will be mailed to producers in LAA # 1
12/1/2010	NAP Application deadlines for forage crops, hay, native rangeland, honey & onions
12/6/2010	COC election ballots must be received in the county office or postmarked by this date
12/15/2010	NAP Application deadlines for fruit & nut tree crops (kiwi, etc.)
1/2/2011	2011 Bee hive certification deadline for NAP & ELAP
1/30/2011	2010 ELAP Application for Payment deadline
4/30/2011	Final day to report fall/winter planted crops (oats, wheat, etc.)
Continuous	MILC Program Signup Report losses for TAP within 90 days of loss Submit Form CCC-927/ 928 to IRS Farm Loans - Direct & Operating

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."