



**April 2011**

**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  
Dave Wheeler, Vice Chair  
Stuart Crook, Member  
Larry Byrd, Member  
Dale Matney, 1st Alternate  
Mary Blake, 1st Alternate  
David S. Absher, 1st Alternate  
Anita Moran-Slicton, 1st Alternate  
Miguel Garcia, Advisor

**Next COC Meeting:**

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Farm Program Staff:**

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

**Farm Loan Staff:**

Suzie Wilson, State Specialist  
John Oosterman, FLM  
Joe Enos, FLO  
Deanna Martin, FLOT  
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.

For a list of local offices, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)



## Fall Certification Deadline April 30, 2011

The first acreage reporting deadline is fast approaching! **Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land use, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of USDA programs.** April 30, 2011 is the final day for producers to certify all fall planted crops (i.e. oats & wheat) for the 2011 crop year. If your crop certifications are not signed and date stamped in the county office by **April 30, 2011** you will be charged a late-filed fee.

**Fees charged are as follows:**

\$30/farm plus \$16 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, with \$8/ 30 minutes thereafter (minimum of 1 hr).

**\*\*Late Fee Exception\*\***– If your fall crop is planted after April 30<sup>th</sup> then you have 15 calendar days from the date of planting to timely report your crop (according to handbook 2-CP). If you would like to certify your crops that were planted after April 30, 2011 and it is more than 15 days after the date you planted a late-filed fee will be charged..

**As a reminder, participation in any of the following programs require annual acreage reports to be on file: DCP/ACRE, SURE, NAP, LFP & ELAP.**

If you participate in any of these programs or would like to have your crops certified for insurance purposes, please call and schedule an appointment with any one of our staff members to ensure you have acreage certifications completed in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact our office at ext 2.

## 2011 NAP

Any producer who purchased 2011 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage, must make sure to do the following to fulfill program requirements and maintain eligibility:

- Provide current leases and/or grant deeds for all property operated
- Timely file acreage reports and previous year's production by the following deadlines:
  - ◆ Fall Planted (oats, wheat, etc) - **April 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - ◆ Spring Planted & Permanent Plantings (corn, native grass, trees, etc.) - **July 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Notify our office of *any loss suffered* **within 15 days** of a qualifying weather-related loss or within 15 days of the loss being apparent
- Provide acceptable production records for the last four to ten years such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc. This will ensure that your Actual Production History (APH) is maintained and accurate. **(If production records are not provided, producers will be given a percentage of the county average)**

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility or any of the above mentioned NAP requirements, please contact Joni at ext 124.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to groups called tracts having the same owner and/or the same operator under one farm serial number (FSN). When changes in ownership or operator take place or when an owner and operator cannot agree about program participation (for example - ACRE participation), a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution (or recon) is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember to be effective for the current year (2011), recons must be requested by the owner or operator by June 1, 2011 for farms participating in DCP/ACRE and August 1, 2011 for all other farms. If you have any questions, please contact Maria at ext 118.

## LIP

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008 and before Oct 1, 2011. Eligible weather conditions include hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat and/or extreme cold.

To be eligible for LIP benefits, producers must either be a contract grower or an owner of the livestock. Contract growers must have possession and control of the eligible livestock and produce a written agreement with the owner that covers the date of death of the eligible livestock.

To be eligible for LIP, livestock must:

1. Have died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event occurring on or after January 1, 2008 and on or before October 1, 2011 and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event and occur in the calendar years for which benefits are being requested
2. Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the date that they died
3. Not have been produced for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded livestock includes wild free roaming animals, pets or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, roping or for show.

LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category.

Producers who suffer livestock death losses must file a notice of loss and application for payment along with submitting verifiable proof of their loss.

Please contact our office as soon as your loss is apparent to begin the signup process. For a complete list of eligible livestock, national payment rates or if you have any questions, please contact Maria at ext 118.

## HEL/WC Requirements

Due to the Food Security Act of 1985, Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions are required to participate in USDA programs. The Food Security Act of 1985 is commonly known as the “Swampbuster or Sodbuster Act”, which was enacted for the purpose of protecting highly erodible land from excessive soil erosion and protect wetlands.

### Provision Objectives

- Reduce soil loss due to wind and water erosion.
- Protect the Nation’s long-term capability to produce food and fiber.
- Reduce sedimentation and improve water quality.
- Assist in preserving the functions and values of the Nation’s wetlands.

### How do I maintain Conservation Compliance and my USDA Program Benefits?

#### Protect Highly Erodible Land

FSA will send over a request to have your property evaluated and to determine if any fields are designated as Highly Erodible Land (HEL). Fields designated as highly erodible must be protected from excessive soil erosion when used to produce agricultural commodities by applying an approved conservation system.

#### Get a Wetland Determination

Participants must certify that annually tilled crops have not been planted on land that was converted from a wetland to cropland between Dec. 23, 1985 and Nov. 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits in any year an agricultural commodity was planted). Participants must also certify that a wetland has not been converted to cropland after Nov. 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits and can be asked to pay back benefits earned during years the land is in violation; eligibility can be restored if the wetland is mitigated).

## NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

### COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



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## 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA County Committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers are encouraged to be members of the committee to speak for these potentially underrepresented groups.

### County Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility



FSA County Committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County Committee Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

**LAA # 3 in Stanislaus County is up for election this year. Boundaries of LAA # 3 are West of the San Joaquin River & South of West Main, Fulkerth, Hawkeye and Taylor Roads, which encompasses most of Turlock, Mountain View, Grayson, Westley, Patterson, Crows Landing, Newman and Diablo Grande. If you have farming interests in any of these areas and are interested in running for a position on the County Committee, please contact our office!**

### Election Period

June 15, 2011 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: [http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eFormsAdmin/FSA0669A\\_110331V01.pdf](http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eFormsAdmin/FSA0669A_110331V01.pdf)

Aug. 1, 2011 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 4, 2011 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return voter ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2012 - Newly elected county committee member(s) take office.

### Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Causes for ineligibility include being:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or another felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

### Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in any FSA program may be nominated for the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member."

Please contact the County FSA office if you have any questions.

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



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## DCP/ACRE Deadline June 1

Signups for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) are underway.

Producers are in the process of being contacted either by mail or phone regarding the necessary eligibility documentation that needs to be completed. All contracts and supporting eligibility documents must be completed and date stamped in the county office by June 1, 2011.

Also, **Fall Crop Certifications** must be completed by **April 30, 2011** or a late fee will be charged. If you have missed your appointment or have not been scheduled one yet, please contact our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment as the deadline is rapidly approaching.

Important Dates to Remember	
4/30/2011	Final day to report fall/winter planted crops (oats, wheat, etc.)
5/31/2011	MAL & LDP Final Availability Date for Corn & Rice
6/1/2011	Final day to apply for 2011 DCP/ACRE
6/16/2011	Next County Committee Meeting
7/15/2011	Final day to report spring/summer planted crops & native grass (corn, permanent planted crops, etc.)
7/29/2011	Final day to apply for 2009 SURE
Continuous	MILC Program Signup 2011 BCAP Report losses for LIP within 30 days loss Report losses for TAP within 90 days of loss ELAP hive certifications for honey bees Submit Form CCC-927 & CCC-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."