

**Sutter/Yuba/Nevada  
FSA County Office**

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Farm Programs  
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**Service Center Contact  
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NRCS Grass Valley

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Kathy Bowman

Acting County Executive Director

Ehab El Liessy

Farm Loan Manager ext. 108

**STAFF & Ext. Numbers**

Kathy Bowman, CPT 104

Lynette Filter, PT 114

Cheryl Giyer, FLO 110

Margarita Gutierrez, PT 113

Jatinder Kullar, FLO 106

Deanna Martin, FLOT 122

Amandeep Sandu, PT 100

Janet Silva, PT 109

Angela Walker, PT 105

Kurt Wahi, PT 126

Karl Warmuth, PT 107

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Stephen Waltz, Chair

Tim Inderbitzen, Vice-Chair

Michael Chesini

B. Chris McKenzie

Debra Tarke

Darlene Moberg

Advisor: Kulwant Johl



# NEWSLETTER



June 2010

## 2010 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 need to be on the committee to speak for these 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.

### Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.  
Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members 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 being ineligible:

Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee.

Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other 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 at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

**Continue on Page 3: COC Election**



Photo by: Anne Chesini, Meridian, CA 2009 Harvest

## LAA Up for Election This Year

The area served by our County Committee is divided up into 3 Local Administrative Areas (LAAs). One member on the committee represents each LAA and serves a 3-year term. This year, LAA #2 (South third

of Sutter County with Hwy 20 on the north and Sutter Bypass on the west. Feather River on the East.) is up for election. Contact our office for exact boundaries.



**Important  
Deadline  
Don't Forget!  
Acreage Reporting  
Deadline  
is  
July 15, 2010  
For  
Spring Seeded  
Crops**

## Efforts by FSA & RMA to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA as been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report sus-

pected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

COF shall notify all producers twice a year of the monitoring efforts by FSA and RMA to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

- FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop condi-

tions during the season.

- FSA will refer all suspect cases of fraud, waste, or abuse about FCIC to RMA.
- Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, or abuse to FSA, RMA, or OIG.
- FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims as necessary.

### NAP 2011 Application Closing Dates

Crops	Closing Dates
Fall Planted Seed Crops	August 1, 2010
Christmas Trees, Flowers, Aquaculture	September 1, 2010
Onions, Forage Crops hay, Forage Crops, Grazing	December 1, 2010

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien

- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a

supervised program of work as outlined above

- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.
- Call your county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited

Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

\*At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition

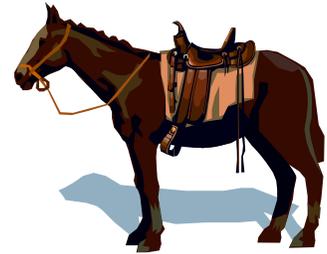
\*Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm

\*crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer

shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole=farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.



The Sutter/Yuba/ Nevada County FSA Office staff would like to thank each and every one of you for the kindness, support and patience you have shown during this time of great sorrow.

Joel W. Twitchell, CED, passed away on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

RIP

## Continued from Page 1: COC Election

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated from 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." Producers may contact their local USDA 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, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

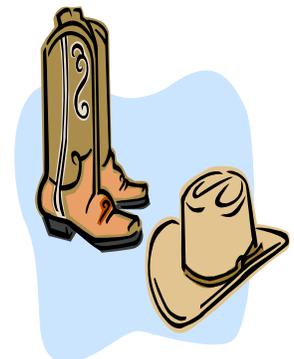
Ask your current commercial lender about an FSA loan

guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of

\$4,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early.

Farm Loan employees can help you understand what information is required and where to find it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



**Sutter/Yuba/Nevada**  
County FSA Office  
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Yuba City, California 95993



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