



August 2010

Tehama County FSA News

Tehama County USDA Service Center

Tehama County FSA Office
2 Sutter St. Ste. C
Red Bluff, CA 96080
530-527-3013 (phone)
530-527-7451 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

County Committee
David Lester
Mike Anderson
Jack Moser
Edwardo Curiel – Advisor

County Executive Director
Darci Cullers

Staff:
Donna McKenna, PT
Laurelle Medeiros, PT

Farm Loan Manager
Katherine Lewis

Staff:
Ed DeBauche, FLO
Sandy Davidson, FLO
Jill Monson, FL PT

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES (NRCS)

District Conservationist
Larry Branham

Range Specialist
Erik Ross

Soil Conservationist
Rae Ann Dubay

SURE Program Deadline Announced

The deadline to apply for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for the 2008 crop year is **September 30, 2010**. Those wishing to make an application for the program will need to submit an application and any supporting documentation before close of business on Thursday, September 30, 2010.

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 Crop Disaster 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 the 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 backgrounder are also available online.

The Tehama County FSA office is currently taking applications for losses that occurred during the 2008 crop year. Please call the Tehama FSA office to make an appointment to apply.

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.

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.

Two Nominees for LAA#3 Election

Two local farmers have been nominated to be a part of the Tehama County Commit-

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tee representing the Southwest area of the county.

The first nominee is David Lester, the current Committee representative for the southwest area of the county. Mr. Lester is a local olive grower out of the Corning area, raises beef cattle, and is in hay production.

The second nominee is Pablo Nerey, also a local olive grower out of the Corning area. His family has been in olive farming for many years and has continued to flourish in the industry.

Ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. The last day to turn in your ballot will be **December 6, 2010**. The Tehama FSA office encourages all eligible farmers to participate in the County Committee elections and return their ballots before the deadline.

NAP Program

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 may choose to continue coverage on the same crop(s) for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- Notifying FSA within **15 days** of damaging weather event, or within **15 days** of the crop damage becoming apparent. (Including grasses)
- Notifying FSA *prior* to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops (i.e. Olives)

Please see the deadline dates for **2011** coverage listed below:

Closing Date	Crop
9/1/2010	Forage Seed Crops (alfalfa, clover, grass, etc)
12/1/2010	Forage Crops (intended use is grazing; rangeland)
12/1/2010	Honey
12/15/2010	Fruit/Nut Trees (olives, persimmons, grapes, peaches, pears, etc)

*For a more detailed listing of crops, please contact the Tehama FSA office.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. **If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date.** Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by July 15 of the next year.**

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 a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early.

FSA employees can help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information

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is required and where to find it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Tehama FSA office.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

CRP Sign-up Opened August 2

Sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) opened on August 2, 2010. From that date through August 27, 2010, producers may offer eligible land for this program. USDA is authorized to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Enrollment is likely to exceed the acreage limit.

CRP provides conservation practices that preserve the soil, clean water, and restore wildlife habitat. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for annual rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years.

All interested farmers and ranchers should contact the local FSA office soon to learn more about this program.

Tree Assistance Program

Assistance for orchardists and nursery tree growers with weather-related losses can now be obtained through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

The TAP program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides help to orchard and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters.

To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15% death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality (3%), **totaling an 18% loss**. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70% of replant costs and 50% of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs replacing or salvaging damaged trees.

Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must have also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), or for 2008 crop year a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement could be obtained through the 2008 Buy-In provision.

Producers must submit an application and supporting documents within 90 calendar days from the:

- Date of the disaster event, **OR**
- Date the loss became apparent to the producer

Please contact the Tehama FSA office for more information about TAP.

Preventing Fraud

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

Tehama County FSA Office
 2 Sutter Street, Ste. C
 Red Bluff, CA 96080



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Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

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 that 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

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
2 August	CRP General Sign-up Open
27 August	CRP General Sign-up Closes
6 September	Labor Day- CLOSED!
30 September	Deadline: 2008 SURE program
11 October	Columbus Day-CLOSED!
5 November	COC Election ballots mailed for LAA#3
6 December	Deadline: last day to submit COC Election ballots for LAA#3
On Going	TAP Program Sign-ups (within 15 days of disaster event)
See NAP, page 2	Deadline: NAP Coverage for 2011 Crops

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