



NEWSLETTER



May 2011 Tehama County

Tehama FSA Office
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Red Bluff, CA 96080

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www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

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

County Committee
David Lester-Chairman
Jack Moser-Vice Chair
Mike Andersen-Member
Eduardo Curiel-Advisor

County Executive Director
Darci Cullers

Staff
Donna McKenna, PT
Rebecca Tovey, PT

Farm Loan Manager
Katherine Lewis

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

**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

District Conservationalist
Larry Branham

Range Specialist
Erik Ross

Soil Conservationalist
Mindy Nicoletti

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through to the deadline of **June 1, 2011**. USDA urges producers to make use of the e-DCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

2009 SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster through Sept. 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).

Currently the Tehama FSA office is taking appointments for the 2009 SURE program. If you believe you suffered a loss during the 2009 crop year, and had purchased insurance on ALL crops on ALL farms, please call the local FSA office to make an appointment. **The deadline for the 2009 SURE program is July 29, 2011.** See the local FSA office for details.

Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date for that crop.

Acreage reports must be filed timely. Fall seeded crop, including cereal grains, must be reported by **April 30, 2011**. Spring seeded and perennial crops must be reported by **July 15, 2011**. Failure to file timely will result in late fees, mandatory spot check of farm, and possible program ineligibility.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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

To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster

**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 farm loan benefits to you 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

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



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programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainser.vlet>.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for all 2010 NAP covered crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year; **April 30 for small grains and July 15th for other crops**. Even if you did NOT suffer a loss, you need to report your 2010 production to the Tehama FSA office. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

Olives: The Tehama FSA realizes the Olive crop had a very difficult year in 2010 and producers were forced to leave production on the trees. Producers may self certify the amount of tonnage that was left on the trees as long as they, 1) did NOT apply for a NAP Application for Payment, 2) and did NOT have an FSA Loss Adjustor make an appraisal on the tonnage left on the trees. The Tehama County Committee will review each self certification of production, and depending on the orchards Average Production History (APH), will approve the 2010 self certified production to be used for future APH's.

2011 Crop Year: As a reminder, if you believe that your NAP covered crop has suffered a weather related disaster that could cause lower production for the 2011 crop year, please notify the Tehama FSA office ASAP. NAP losses must be reported within **15 days** of the disaster event, or when the loss is apparent.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement approved conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices, such as water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office

and make an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Tree Assistance Program

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. To qualify for TAP producers must:

- Suffer qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15% (adjusted for normal mortality of 3%). **18% total loss** from eligible disaster
- Owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the disaster occurred
- Replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved
- Orchardists and nursery tree growers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either Federal Crop Insurance or FSA's NAP program.

Payment calculation for replanting dead trees is the lesser of, 1) 70% of actual costs, OR 2) amount calculated for replanting using DAFP rates. Payment calculation for rehabilitating damaged trees is the lesser of, 1) 50% of actual costs, OR amount calculated for rehabilitation using DAFP rates. Payment will not be paid until AFTER trees have been replanted and/or rehabilitated by the producer.

Producers must file a TAP application with the FSA office within 90 calendar days from either the disaster event date, or the date the loss was apparent.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so a loan can be processed in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist 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 median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov.

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, large or small. 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 and payment eligibility.

Election Period

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

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

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers

and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf

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 an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Bank Account Changes

Currently policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

As always, please feel free to contact the Tehama FSA office if you have any questions regarding this newsletter or our programs.

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



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Dates to Remember	
May 30	Memorial Day-CLOSED
June 1	DEADLINE -2011 DCP/ACRE sign up
June 1	DEADLINE -Report farm record changes
June 15	Nominations for COC Election for LAA #2 begins
July 4	4 th of July-CLOSED
July 15	DEADLINE -Spring seeded and perennial crop certification
July 29	DEADLINE -2009 SURE program
On Going	Submit TAP application within 90 calendar days of disaster to trees, bushes and vines
On Going	Submit NAP Notice of Loss within 15 days of disaster event or when loss is apparent