

September 2010



Tulare County FSA News

Tulare County USDA Service Center

3530 W. Orchard Ct
Visalia, CA 93277
559-734-8732 Ext. 2 ph
559-732-2805 fax

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Chairperson

Charlie Pitigliano, Jr.

Vice-Chairperson

Tom Gruber

Member

Mark Heuer

Advisor

Alex Garcia,

County Executive Director

Kaye Rydberg

Farm Loan Manager

Tom Roberts

County Office Staff

Becky Garcia, CPT
Theresa Barajas, PT
Slade Childers, FL PT
Pat Miller, FLO
Yvonne Newman, PT
Danielle Parreira, PT
Matt Scoville, PT
James Smith, PT
Kelly Solis, PT
Lorraine Wilson, PT

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

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 may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Closing Dates for 2011Crop Coverage:

Onions	12/1/2010
Forage Crops, Intended us of FG,	12/1/2010
Hay (Mechanically harvested)	
Forage Crops, Intended Use of GZ,	
Grazing	
Honey	12/1/2010
Fruit—Nut Tree Crops	12/15/2010
2012 Avocados	1/1/2011



NAP continued

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

- Timely file acreage reports (April 30th for winter grains, July 15th for permanent crops including grazing.)
- Timely file production records (July 15th of the subsequent crop year)
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.
- Timely file all eligibility forms (July 15th of the subsequent crop year)

For more information please give our office a call at 559-734-8732 Ext. 2

ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those producers who suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions.

For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred. See program details for other Notice of Loss deadlines. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural disaster Assistance payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

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. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For more information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

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 \$5,000. Loan requirements are:

- US citizenship or legal resident alien status
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Compliance with FSA general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town (population 50,000 or less)
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Ability to conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.
- Demonstrate a 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.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA Farm Loan staff can help answer questions about eligibility for projects you may propose and about general program requirements.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please give our office a call.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Signup for Durum Wheat Quality Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently taking applications for the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP). The program will partially compensate producers for the costs associated with fungicide application on 2010 durum wheat. This compensation is for durum growers that fought Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) which is commonly called wheat scab.

Durum producers have until September 15, 2010, to apply for fungicide application reimbursement under the DWQP program. The fungicide payment rate for the chemical will be established by the FSA National Office. The reimbursement rate for the cost of application will be set by the state committees in each durum producing state.

Producers can prepare for DWQP signup by gathering their 2010 fungicide bills that document their Fusarium fighting efforts.

USDA Farm Service Agency
 Tulare County FSA Office
 3530 W. Orchard Ct
 Visalia, CA 93277



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Dates to Remember	
Sept. 6	Labor Day Office Closed
Sept. 15	Signup for Durum Wheat Quality Program Ends
Sept. 30	Succession in Interest Report to COC
Sept. 30	2008 SURE Application Deadline
Dec. 1	2011 NAP Application for Coverage Deadline for Forage Crops intended use of Hay, Grazing
Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.750%

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Controlled Substance

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for any and all program payments and benefits. If convicted, the participant shall be ineligible for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

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