



## 2007 California Freeze

### USDA Farm Service Agency Disaster Response

Natural disaster is a constant threat to America's farmers and ranchers and rural residents. The Farm Service Agency provides assistance for losses that result from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities.

California has experienced several nights of temperatures cold enough to affect winter crops. The following Farm Service Agency programs may become available in the future. Some of these programs require Congressional action before they are funded.

**Crop Insurance** - Coverage is available on a crop-by-crop and county-by-county basis. For those producers who purchased a policy, they will be covered for any damage caused by the freeze and should contact their crop insurance agent immediately and prior to disposing of the crop.

**Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - a lower level of crop insurance for all crops for which regular crop insurance (see above) is not available. A \$100 coverage fee must be paid prior to the closing date for each individual crop for coverage to be in place.

For 2007 permanent crops, the application closing date has passed and there are no late filed provisions. For most annual crops, the application closing date is March 1. However, coverage cannot be

extended to any crop if the damage occurs within 30 days of the date of the application. Producers who had not yet purchased NAP coverage cannot be covered in accordance with Federal Regulations.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

Eligible Producers: an eligible producer is a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The annual gross revenue of the eligible producer, and any individual or entity combined as one "person" with the eligible producer, cannot exceed \$2 million.

**Crop Disaster Program** - Covers crop losses attributable to a weather related cause such as freeze. **Not currently authorized or funded.** Would require Congressional action.

**Tree Assistance Program** - Covers a portion of the cost of replanting trees killed by damaging weather such as a freeze. **Not currently authorized or funded.** Would require Congressional action.

**Low Interest Emergency Loans** - Provides low interest financing to farmers and ranchers who suffer losses due to damaging weather and who operate in a county declared a disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligibility limited to those producers who are unable to obtain commercial credit through normal sources. Program is automatically made

available upon the Secretary declaring a county a disaster area. Requests for disaster declaration should be submitted by county government through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

### Handy websites:

#### USDA Farm Service Agency:

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Fact sheets on all programs are available for download.

#### Homeland Security:

[www.disasterhelp.gov](http://www.disasterhelp.gov)

(With links to USDA, SBA, FEMA, more. Also a link to all of the disaster declared counties, Presidential and Secretarial)

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