



Service Center
U.S. Department
Of
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
150 Chuck Yeager Way, D
Oroville, CA 95965-9215
Voice (530) 534-0112
FAX (530) 533-4936
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Joshua Sheppard – Chair
Ben Bertagna – Vice Chair
Gregory Stephens
Harmanjit S. Gosal –Advisor

County Director

Rupert J. Butler

Staff

Abby Orndorff
Jennifer Pooler
Barbara Wilson
Shan Bertapelle
Teresa Blackson

CA State Appraiser

David Widlund

Farm Loan Manager

Roberta Wheeler

Farm Loan Officer

Ed DeBauche

**IMPORTANT DATES
TO REMEMBER**

COC Meetings

Second Thursday of each
month at 1:00 PM
(Subject to change)

November 3 – COC Ballots
will be mailed for LAA 1

December 1 – 2007 DCP
signup begins.

December 1 – 2007 EQIP
sign up deadline.

December 4 – Ballot
submission deadline

**NAP DEADLINES ARE
PRINTED ON PAGE 2**



Farm Service Agency

BUTTE COUNTY

August 2006

General #3

**ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE (AWP)
RICE DATE AND TIME CHANGE
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Currently, AWP for rice has been announced, to the extent practicable, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time each Tuesday and is effective at the time of the announcement. County Offices shall **not** accept market loan repayments or LDP requests from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This period is known as the dead hour.

Effective **Wednesday August 2, 2006**, to the extent practicable, AWP for rice will be announced every Wednesday at 4:00 a.m. Pacific Time and is effective upon announcement. The announced AWP for rice will remain in effect until the next AWP is announced.

**KEEP TRACK OF HEAT RELATED
LOSSES**

Even though the recent heat wave has finally broken, it's effects linger. Around the state, many thousands of dairy cows, turkeys and chickens have died from the triple digit temperatures. Other producers have suffered milk production losses or had grapes shrivel on the vine.

If you have had a loss as a result of the high heat, we suggest you report the loss to your local Agriculture Commissioner and to us at the County FSA Office.

There is no FSA program in place at this time to respond to the losses. However, it's always a good idea to document what has happened on your farm or ranch.

ELECTION UPDATE

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election is closed. Nominations were due in the county office on Tuesday,

Aug. 1. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by **December 4, 2006**.

County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is Dec. 4.
- Newly elected county committee members take office Jan.1, 2007.

For detailed information about FSA county committees visit the county office.



Security Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures to help protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by the county office. More information is available at <http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity>.

Sign-Up for EQIP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from producers who wish to apply conservation practices to their land for the 2007 **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. The EQIP program helps producers implement new conservation practices through a cost-sharing basis. Some important program dates:

December 1, 2006 is the cut-off deadline. To be eligible for EQIP during this funding cycle, applicants must apply by December 1, 2006. Producers who have requested for Conservation Planning Assistance by **September 22, 2006** will be given a higher priority for funding. Those who do not meet this fiscal year 2007 deadline for requesting planning assistance may still submit an EQIP program application, but ranking will be deferred until the next fiscal year funding cycle. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year. Contact Daniel Wright, Soil Conservationist, at 534-0112, extension 3.

Beneficial Interest Clarified

The Farm Service Agency national office staff has clarified its policy on open storage by rescinding part of a notice issued in July. Producers who deliver to a Commodity Credit Corporation-approved, federally- or state-licensed warehouse and the commodity is placed in open storage must be able to receive from the warehouse a negotiable warehouse receipt or other form of acceptable production evidence, if requested.

For details on the policy, contact the county office staff. National FSA notices are available on the agency's Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> by clicking on "Notices" under "Resources" in the left column.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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 and is produced for food or fiber.

The application deadline date for the 2007 NAP crops is soon approaching. Here are some of the deadline dates.

CROPS	CLOSING DATE	
Value Loss Crops	09/01/2006	Christmas Trees, aquaculture, Flowers
Forage Crops	09/01/2006	
Garbanzo Beans	09/01/2006	Fall Planted
Garlic	10/01/2006	Fall Planted
Honey	12/01/2006	
Onions	12/01/2006	
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranetes, Most Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/2006	
2008 Citrus	01/01/2007	

Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop(s) for 2007, 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(s).

Producers who choose to add new crop(s) or delete 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.

Producers with 2006 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.
- Accurately report the acreage and shares for all crops for which a CCC-471 is filed by July 15 of each year.
- Certify crop production history.
- Complete CCC-502 (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility) and supporting forms.
- Provide a certification for the \$4 million gross revenue limitation for each “person” in an operation.
- Certify conservation compliance on AD-1026.
- Request measurement service, if needed.
- File a notice of loss and application for payment.
- Request a crop appraisal, as applicable.

Commodity Loans Maturing

Reminder that 2005 commodity loans for farm stored corn may mature in August and September. Take a second to view the condition of the grain during this weather pattern of humid air and fluctuating temperatures.

Do not forget, grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

CCC-633-EZ Reminder

A reminder that we’ve switched to the Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) and Request (CCC-633-EZ) form. Be sure to complete and sign page 1 of the EZ form as soon as possible and certainly before you lose beneficial interest.

Then, depending upon the crop, page 2, 3 or 4 is used to request an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs. Contact the county office for details.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years 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.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Act

Producers who are full time members of the military or have been called to active duty with their Reserve or National Guard units should know about the protections provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Producers or borrowers should notify the county office if they are full-time members of the armed services or have been called to active duty status whether or not their financial situation has been adversely affected.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2006	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.125%
Sugar Storage Facility	5.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.250%
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	10.000%

Land for Sale

Producers and investors are encouraged to bookmark this Web site <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>. This site provides a national list of all inventory farms that are available for sale by the Farm Service Agency. These properties were acquired by the agency through mortgage defaults and oftentimes represent a good value. They may also represent an opportunity for beginning farmers to obtain a parcel of real estate and are initially targeted to beginning farmers for financing by the FSA.

Farm Loan Staff Office Day in Butte County

The Farm Loan Staff will be in the Butte County office the first Wednesday of each month to answer questions, help with balance sheets, explain applications, explain eligibility, etc. Ed DeBauche, Farm Loan Officer, is scheduled to be in the office with tentative office hours of 10 am to noon. If you have questions, please plan to stop by.

Emergency Loan Program

FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from qualified production and physical losses due to a

specific natural disaster in a designated disaster area. These funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with disaster year, reorganize the farming operation, etc. The Emergency designations for Butte County are:

M1628 – Severe storms, flooding, landslides
12-17-05 to 1-3-06. **Apply by 10-3-06**

S2315 – Unprecedented rainfall, severe weather
12-17-05 to 4-26-06. **Apply by 2-15-07**

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to qualified socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

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