



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**

Robert L. Maurer

**Staff**

Abby Orndorff  
Shān Bertapelle  
Jennifer Pooler  
Teresa Blackson  
Erin Quigley

**CA State Appraiser**

David Widlund

**Farm Loan Manager**

Ed DeBauche - Acting

**IMPORTANT DATES  
TO REMEMBER**

**COC Meetings**

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

**2008 DCP Payments**

No Program (Waiting for  
Farm Bill)

**Holiday Closures**

December 24 & 25 –  
Christmas

January 1 – New Years

January 21 - Martin Luther  
King Jr.



**Farm Service Agency**

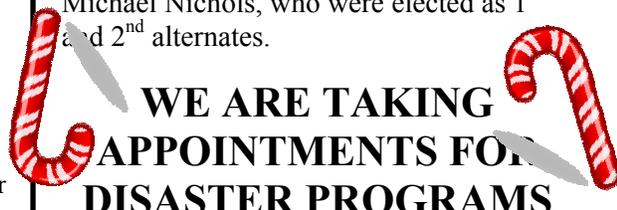
**BUTTE COUNTY**

December  
2007

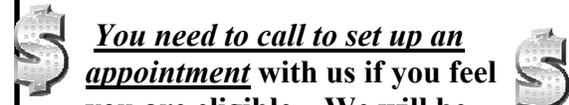


**CONGRATS TO OUR NEW  
COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ROY RONEY**

First of all we give thanks to Ben Bertagna for his 9 years of service on the County Committee. He was helpful and provided knowledge in the orchard business and in other key areas. Roy is in the orchard business and has a knowledgeable background in the livestock industry as well. We look forward to working with him. Congratulations to John J Nock and Michael Nichols, who were elected as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> alternates.



**WE ARE TAKING  
APPOINTMENTS FOR  
DISASTER PROGRAMS**



You need to call to set up an appointment with us if you feel you are eligible. We will be taking appointments through February! Call soon!

Livestock/Crop Disasters: You will need to bring: crop insurance documents showing production, indemnity payments, deeds and tax notices, lease agreements, feed purchase agreements, plus a voided or copy of a check to set up direct deposit.

**CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)  
PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible

for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.



If you suffered a quality loss you could be eligible, please call for an appointment.

**2007 COMMODITY LOANS**

The California Secretary of State has disabled their online lien searching software through the end of the year. This means our office will be changing how we issue 2007 commodity loans. Call for an appointment.

**LATE FILED ACREAGE  
REPORTING**

Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are to be certified by April 15<sup>th</sup> for fall seeded crops and July 15<sup>th</sup> for spring seeded crops including ORCHARDS. You can still file a Late Filed report if the crop or evidence of the crop can be verified in the field, and if a late fee minimum of \$46 is paid.

**NAP**

(Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)

Notice of Loss forms are required to be filed within 15 days of realizing the damaging weather caused the loss. Citrus crop deadline to pay the \$100 insurance fee is January 1.



**2008 NEW FARM BILL?**

Many of you have asked what changes the new farm bill will bring. At this time, the County Office does not have any definite information about the new farm bill.

# **Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007**

## ***When and Where to Apply***

Sign-up for quantity losses under CDP begins Oct. 15, 2007, at local FSA service centers nationwide. FSA will announce sign-up for quality losses under CDP as soon as possible. FSA offices may accept information from producers about quality losses when producers submit applications for quantity losses. However, FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete after FSA announces the quality loss sign-up date and all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA. Also, FSA will not consider applications completed for any loss, including quantity losses, until a final rule has been issued for this program.

## ***Eligibility***

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Participants must have been in compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions for the applicable crop year. A producer is ineligible to receive CDP payments if the FSA state committee, FSA county committee or an FSA official determines that the producer: committed, or attempted to commit, fraud; or did not have an ownership share of the crop. FSA bases each eligible participant's share of a disaster payment on the participant's ownership entitlement share of the crop or crop proceeds, or, if no crop was produced, the share of the crop the participant would have received if the crop had been produced. If the participant has no ownership share of the crop, the participant is ineligible for assistance under CDP.

## ***Eligible Damaging Conditions***

A producer may be eligible for CDP if the crop losses resulted from any of the following: damaging weather, such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, freeze, tornado, hurricane, typhoon; an adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake or flood; or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive wind, excessive heat, saltwater intrusion, irrigation water rationing, disease or insect infestation.

## ***Qualifying 2005, 2006 or 2007 Quantity Crop Losses***

To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer: was prevented from planting a crop; sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the expected production of a crop; or sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the value for value-loss crops.

## ***Rates and Yields; Calculating Payments***

For yield-based crops, FSA calculates CDP payments by multiplying the payment rate established for the crop times 42 percent payment level (set by law) times the loss of production. The loss of production must exceed 35 percent

of the expected production of the unit. For value-loss crops, FSA calculates CDP payments by multiplying the payment rate established for the crop times 42 percent payment level times the loss of value that exceeds 35 percent of the expected production value of the unit. Payment rates for 2005, 2006 or 2007 year crop losses will be: 42 percent of the maximum established USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) price for insured crops; or 42 percent of the state average price for NAP covered crops. In spite of differences in yield or values, FSA will not establish separate rates or yields for crops with different cultural practices, such as organically or "hydroponically" grown crops. When calculating a payment for a unit loss, FSA: will apply a non-harvested payment factor to crop acre-age planted but not harvested; will apply a prevented planting factor to any prevented planted acreage eligible for payment; and may adjust non-harvested payment factors if costs normally associated with growing the crop are not incurred.

## ***Production Losses, Participant Responsibility***

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate. If RMA loss records are not available, the FSA county committee determines RMA loss records are inaccurate or incomplete or the FSA county committee makes inquiry, participants are then responsible for: retaining or providing the best verifiable and reliable production records available for the crop; summarizing all the production evidence; accounting for the total amount of unit production for the crop, whether or not records reflect this production; providing the information in a manner that can be easily understood by the FSA county committee; and providing supporting documentation if the FSA county committee questions the damaging weather event or that all production has been accounted for. For eligible crops that were sold or otherwise disposed of through commercial channels, production records include: commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, or load summaries, and appraisal information from a loss adjuster acceptable to FSA. If the eligible crop was farm-stored, sold, fed to livestock or disposed of in means other than commercial channels, production records for these purposes include: third party truck scale tickets, appraisal information from a loss adjuster acceptable to FSA, contemporaneous diaries or other documentary evidence such as contemporaneous measurements.

## ***Determining Production***

FSA includes all harvested production, non-harvested appraised production and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP. The production of eligible crop acreage harvested more than once in a crop year will include the total harvested production.

## **Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007**

**(continued)**

If a crop is appraised and subsequently harvested as the intended use, FSA will take into account the actual harvested production to determine benefits. FSA will determine whether the evidence of actual production represents all that could or would have been harvested.

The county committee will assign production for the unit when it determines that: the participant failed to provide adequate and acceptable production records; the loss to the crop is because of a disaster condition not covered under this program, or circumstances other than natural disaster, and there has not been an accounting of this ineligible cause of loss; the participant carries out a practice, such as multiple cropping, that generally results in lower yields than the established historic yields; the participant has a contract to receive a guaranteed payment for all or a portion of the crop; a crop was late-planted; non-harvested acreage was not timely appraised; or other appropriate causes exist for such assignment as determined by the FSA Deputy Administrator.

### ***Calculation of Acreage***

Acreage is calculated by using the number of insured or NAP-covered acres planted as a crop. In cases of a repeat crop or multiple-planted crop in more than one planting period, or when multiple cropped acres meet established criteria, then each of these crops may be considered separate crops if the FSA county committee determines that all of the following conditions are met: both the initial and subsequent planted crops were planted with the intent to harvest; both the initial and subsequent planted crops were planted within the normal planting period for that crop; both the initial and subsequent planted crops meet all other eligibility provisions including good farming practices; and each planting could reach maturity if each planting was harvested or would have been harvested. In cases where there is multiplecropped acreage, each crop may be eligible for disaster assistance separately if the participant has verifiable records establishing a history of carrying out a successful multiple cropping practice on the specific crops for which assistance is requested. Participants with multiple-cropped acreage not meeting the criteria must select the crop for which assistance will be requested. If more than one participant has an interest in the multiple cropped acreage, all participants must agree to the crop designated for payment by the end of the CDP application period or no payment will be approved for any crop on the multiple cropped acreage.

### ***Calculation of Prevented Planted Acreage***

Prevented-planted acreage will be considered separately from planted acreage of the same crop. Disaster payments for insured crops for prevented planted acreage shall not be made unless RMA or FSA documentation indicates that the eligible participant received a prevented planting payment under either the NAP or RMA-administered program.

The participant must prove, to the satisfaction of the FSA county committee, an intent to plant the crop and that their crop could not be planted because of an eligible disaster. Prevented planted disaster benefits do not apply to: acreage not insured or NAP covered; any acreage on which a crop other than a cover crop was harvested, hayed or grazed during the crop year; any acreage for which a cash lease payment is received for the use of the acreage the same crop year unless the county committee determines the lease was for haying and grazing rights only and was not a lease for use of the land; acreage for which the participant or any other person received a prevented planted payment for any crop for the same acreage, excluding share arrangements; and acreage for which the participant cannot provide verifiable proof to the FSA county committee that inputs such as seed, chemicals and fertilizer were available to plant and produce a crop with the expectation of producing at least a normal yield. Crop acreage reports that were filed late for prevented planted acreage in previous years shall not be accepted for CDP purposes.

### ***Value Loss Crops***

Benefits under CDP are calculated based on the loss of value at the time of the damaging weather or related condition, as determined by FSA. Value loss crops are nursery, Christmas trees, vegetable sets and root stock (including ginseng root), aquaculture (including ornamental fish), floriculture, mushroom and other such crops as determined appropriate. For vegetable sets and root stock, benefits are limited to plants grown in a container and controlled environment for use as transplants or root stock by the applicant for commercial sale on property owned or leased by the applicant and managed using good rootstock or fruit and vegetable plant growing practices.

### ***Payment Limitations***

The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007. A participant may receive benefits for crop losses for only one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop years. Payments will be made not later than 60 days after a producer files completed applications necessary for FSA to determine producer eligibility for benefits. No participant shall receive CDP benefits in an amount that exceeds 95 percent of the value of the expected production for the relevant period as estimated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The sum of the value of the crop not lost (if any), the CDP payment received and any crop insurance payment or payments received under the NAP for losses to the same crop cannot exceed 95 percent of what the crop's value would have been if there had been no loss.

### ***For More Information***

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Butte County FSA Office  
150 Chuck Yeager Way Suite D  
Oroville, CA 95965-9215



***DEADLINES – DEADLINES – DEADLINES***

**Under NAP must file a notice of loss within 15 Days after Disaster Event**

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** – Last day to apply for Nap 2009 citrus coverage

**Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>** – Fall seeded crop report deadline

**Jul. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Spring seeded crop report deadline

**Remember to review and update all farm operating plans. Remember to let us know if you bank account changes.  
We don't know when and if we will have 2008 DCP advanced payments. It depends on what happens with the farm bill.**

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