



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>



*Washington*

**Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Joshua Sheppard – Chair  
Gregory Stephens–Vice  
Chair  
Roy Roney - Member  
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**

Tom Roberts

**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**

February 18 Washington’s  
Birthday



**Farm Service Agency**  
**BUTTE COUNTY** February 2008

**Abby Orndorff is taking a New  
Career Opportunity**

We will miss Abby very much, but wish her the best in her new job. She will be with us through February. She has been with us for over 16 years. Thank you Abby for your great service!

**ECP SIGN UP PERIOD  
February 11<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>**

Please call for an appointment to sign up your fields for this program! Please complete the sign up sheet in this newsletter (page 3) if you have not already done so. We may need a copy of your deed and/or lease for proof of ownership or control of the orchard. Bring these documents with you if you have not provided this information recently.

ECP stands for Emergency Conservation Program. Butte County is approved but **NOT FUNDED**. We are in line with many counties across the country asking for funds. Hopefully we will get funded. It is the best we can do at this time.

According to the National ECP Program Manager, “No funds are currently available for allocation... Your request has been placed on a list for allocation, should funds become available in the future.”



**TIME IS RUNNING OUT, WE  
ARE STILL TAKING  
APPOINTMENTS FOR  
DISASTER PROGRAMS**

You need to call to set up an appointment with us if you feel you are eligible. We are continuing to take appointments.

**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.

**LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCERS**

If you suffered feed or livestock losses during the 2007 year, you may be eligible for a payment. Regulations were modified to extend eligibility through the whole 2007 year not just through February 28, 2007. Call and set up an appointment.

**2008 NEW FARM BILL?**

There is still no solid news about the Farm Bill. We will let you know when we know.



**HELP US  
UPDATE  
OUR RECORDS**

We are trying to update our records on an ongoing basis. If you get this newsletter and are not a member of an entity nor have any interest in a farm, or have a family member that has passed away, please contact us so we can get our records updated. Thank you.

## **WHEAT PRODUCERS: ACREAGE REPORTING**

Acres reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Acres 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 of (\$46.00 + Time + Mileage) is paid.

## **EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM** **For Information Call 530-527-3013**

**Overview:** USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

**Loan Uses:** Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

**Eligibility:** Emergency loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who:

- Own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster area or quarantine area (for physical losses only, the FSA Administrator may authorize emergency loan assistance);
- Are established family farm operators and have sufficient farming or ranching experience;
- Are citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- Have suffered at least a 30-percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property;
- Have an acceptable credit history;

- Are unable to receive credit from commercial sources;
- Can provide collateral to secure the loan; and
- Have repayment ability.

**Loan Requirements:** FSA loan requirements are different from those of other lenders. Some of the more significant differences are the following:

- Borrowers must keep acceptable farm records;
- Borrowers must operate in accordance with a farm plan they develop and agree to with local FSA staff; and
- Borrowers may be required to participate in a financial management-training program and obtain crop insurance.

**Collateral is Required:** All emergency loans must be fully collateralized. The specific type of collateral may vary depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and the individual circumstances of the applicant. If applicants cannot provide adequate collateral, their repayment ability may be considered as collateral to secure the loan. A first lien is required on property or products acquired, produced, or refinanced with loan funds.

**Loan Limit:** Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

**Loan Terms:** Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within 1 to 7 years; depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability, and collateral available as loan security. In special circumstances, terms of up to 20 years may be authorized. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years. In certain circumstances, repayment may be made over a maximum of 40 years.

**Interest Rate:** The current annual interest rate for emergency loans is 3.75 percent.

**Application Deadline:** Applications for emergency loans must be received within 8 months of the county's disaster or quarantine designation date.

**For More Information:** Contact the farm loan team in Tehama County at 530-527-3013. You can set up an appointment to meet with a loan officer here at the Butte County office. More information at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](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**

**Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>** – Spring Seeded NAP deadline for crops like pumpkins and safflower

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

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

**Remember to let us know if your bank account changes. We don't know when or if we will have 2008 DCP advanced payments, it depends on what happens with the farm bill.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, 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, audiotape, 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, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC. 20250-9410 Telephone (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD) USDA is an equal employment provider and employer