



Service Center  
U.S. Department  
Of  
Agriculture

**Farm Service Agency**

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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**

Abby Orndorff - Acting

**Staff**

Shan Bertapelle  
Teresa Blackson  
Jennifer Pooler  
Erin Quigley  
Barbara Wilson

**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)

**October 1, 2007** – 2008

DCP sign-up begins.

**April 1** – Status date  
deadline.

**Aug 3, 2007** – Last day to  
sign DCP contracts without a  
late fee.

**Holiday Closures**

July 4 – Independence Day  
September 3 – Labor Day  
October 8 - Columbus Day  
November 12 – Veterans  
Day  
November 22 –Thanksgiving  
December 25 - Christmas



**Farm Service Agency**

**BUTTE COUNTY**

June 2007

General #5

**DISASTER PROGRAM**

John Smythe, State Director of the California Farm Service Agency is pleased to announce that agricultural producers who have suffered losses as a result of natural disasters will be able to count on the United States Department of Agriculture for assistance.

Contained in Public Law No: 110-28, U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, was a multi-program package to help farmers in California who have suffered losses over the past three years.

“Specific details are not yet available,” said Smythe. “But the aid package will certainly be a big help for the state’s growers who have suffered substantial losses. As more information becomes available we will provide updates and we encourage anyone interested to access our website where we will post information as soon as it becomes available: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).”

Smythe continued. “Sign up for the ag disaster programs will most likely occur later this fall. We are asking producers to be patient and read their FSA county office newsletters for program sign up information.”

**Crop Disaster Program:**

All crops are eligible. However, producers must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency’s Non-insured Assistance Program in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007) as a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits. Quality loss assistance will be available for some crops as well.

**Emergency Conservation Program:**

Nationwide, \$16 million has been made available for the cleanup and restoration of farm and agricultural production lands.

**Livestock Programs:**

Producers choose for each livestock program one of three years for which they would receive benefits. Most California counties are eligible. For a complete list of eligible counties by year, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and select California from the state office menu at the top of the page. Another choice is to visit your local FSA County Office.

**The Livestock Compensation Program**

provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (up to Feb. 28, 2007). Eligible livestock under are: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, and catfish.

**The Livestock Indemnity Program**

makes payment available to producers that have incurred more than normal livestock losses between Jan.1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a disaster. A producer will select the losses in one year for benefits.

**Dairy Programs:**

**The Dairy Assistance Program**

compensates producers for reduced milk production due to a natural disaster in a declared disaster county. Nationwide, \$16 million is available. A full listing of the disaster counties is available online: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**Milk Income Loss Contract Program**

This program extends the MILC program for one additional month, through Sept. 30, 2007.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

It's County Committee election time and this issue of the **Butte County** newsletter is your guide to the 2007 election.

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, Butte County is divided into three local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

### ***Butte County Opening***

**LAA 2** – LAA 2 is bordered on the North by the Butte County Line, East to the Butte County line, West to the Sacramento River, and South to Highway 32, Heagan Lane, and Ord Ferry Road.

We are also accepting nominations for Minority Advisor to represent the interests of socially disadvantaged producers

### ***Election Timetable***

June 15, 2007 Nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2007 Deadline to submit nomination forms.

Nov. 2, 2007 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 3, 2007 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA County Office.

Jan. 1, 2008 New committee members and alternates are installed.

### ***Nominations Open June 15***

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 – August 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

Nomination form, FSA-669A, and details are available at the county office or can be downloaded from the FSA web site. To find these forms online simply go to; [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections)

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 1, 2007 or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2007.

### ***Election***

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 2, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on December 3, or postmarked no later than midnight on December 3, 2007 to be eligible.



## DCP DEADLINE EXTENSION

Farm Service Agency State Executive Director John G. Smythe, announced an extension to the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program until August 3, 2007.

This extension is a result of earlier problems with the Farm Service Agency's computer network. A late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after Aug. 3, 2007, and before Sept. 30, 2007. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007.

Smythe noted that the extension applies **only** to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the annual DCP contract period of Sept. 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

## APPOINTMENTS

The County Office workload has increased dramatically with the 2007 Payment Eligibility requirements, the extension of the DCP Deadline, and upcoming acreage reporting certifications.

Please schedule appointments as soon as possible to ensure that your appointment time is as efficient as possible. If you are unable to attend your scheduled appointment please notify the County Office as soon as possible to reschedule.

United States Department of Agriculture  
Butte County FSA Office  
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite D  
Oroville, CA 95965-9215

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## ***RECONSTITUTIONS***

According to the definition of a farm, farms are made of tracts that have the same owner and the same operator. There are exceptions. Sometimes a farm or a tract needs to be combined or divided. When this occurs it is called a reconstitution.

When reconstitutions occur existing base acres may be divided among those with interests in the base acres. There are three different methods to distribute the resulting base acres. These methods are the Crop Land Method, Estate Method, and the Default Method.

The Crop Land Method is the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

The Default Method is the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

The Estate Method is the division of base acres for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

National Procedure in 2-CM (Revision 6) Amendment 1 Paragraph 71B requires all reconstitutions to be requested by August 1 of the fiscal year for farms subject to DCP.

## ***DEADLINES – DEADLINES – DEADLINES***

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** – COC nominations begin.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** – all spring seeded planting acreage reports.

**August 1st** – All COC nomination forms must be returned to the County Office

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – All DCP contacts must be complete to avoid a \$100 late fee per farm.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to file for a DCP Contract.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – First day to sign up for 2008 crop year.  
**Remember to review and update all farm operating plans.**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ballots are to be mailed to all eligible producers for the COC elections.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Last day to return completed ballots.

## ***GOODBYE, BUTTE COUNTY***

I arrived in Butte County as the County Executive Director in August 2005. Together with a dedicated, hardworking staff, and phenomenal County Committee I was able to serve the producers of Butte County. Together we all have made the Butte County Agricultural Community a better place.

I have accepted the County Executive Director position in Whatcom County, Washington in the northwest corner of the Washington. I have come to know most of the producers and stakeholders of the community and have treasured my moments here. It is my sincerest hope that I have served you well.

Remember, this is your office. You vote for the County Committee. They represent you in the office operation. Be sure to vote and keep your office strong and viable. Thank you for sharing your dreams with me.

Rupert J. Butler, CED  
2005-2007

