



United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency California

The **Farm Service Agency's Mission** is to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.

FSA's Agency / Internal Vision is to be customer-driven with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture.

FSA's Societal / External Vision is to foster a market-oriented, economically and environmentally sound American agriculture delivering an abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber supply while sustaining quality agricultural communities.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

California farms and ranches have to contend with a variety of natural disasters including fire, flood, freeze, wind and drought. FSA Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program options greatly assist producers who have suffered losses from these unfortunate conditions.

The **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** is an indemnity-type program and provides disaster assistance to participating producers of crops not insurable by commercial carriers.

A set of five new disaster assistance programs were introduced in the new Farm Bill to assist farmers and ranchers in recovering from crop, orchard and livestock losses due to natural disasters. Programs include the **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)**; **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)**; **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**; **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**; and the **Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)**. Several of these programs require NAP participation or crop insurance coverage.

The **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** shares the cost with producers for rehabilitating farmlands damaged by natural disaster.

COMMODITY SUPPORT

The **Marketing Assistance Loan** and **Loan Deficiency Payment** programs provide alternatives to selling crops at harvest when prices tend to be low.

Farmers can receive a loan using crops as collateral and make repayment after the seasonal rise in prices. If prices fall, crop collateral can be forfeited or sold for loan repayment.

The **Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)** provides income stability to producers with established base acres in qualifying commodities through annual fixed direct payments or through counter-cyclical payments that offset lost market income. The 2008 Farm Bill added an **ACRE** option (**Average Crop Revenue Election Program**) that provides a further mechanism to hedge against risk.

Most prominent among FSA's Market Loss Assistance Programs, the **Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)** provides dairies some assistance during extreme market price fluctuations.

ENVIRONMENT and ENERGY

FSA administers conservation and environmental programs to conserve our Nation's natural resources, including land, water, air, fish and wildlife. The **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** is a voluntary contract with agricultural land owners to conserve farmland for environmental uses in return for rental payments. Landowners also have cost-share options to establish long-term resource conservation practices. The **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)** assists in partially offsetting costs for the harvest, storage and transfer of ag biomass for clean energy production. It also provides incentives for the planting of new biomass feedstock crops. **Conservation Loans** are also available, as described below under Credit programs.

MANAGING CREDIT NEEDS

FSA makes direct loans, provides loan guarantees and offers credit counseling to family farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit. FSA has set aside targeted funding for **Beginning Farmers** and **Socially Disadvantaged Farmers**. **Emergency Loans** are also available for those who have suffered financial setbacks from declared natural disasters. **Conservation Loans** are now available to assist all eligible farms to implement approved conservation measures on their lands to protect sensitive habitat and waterways.

FSA's financing can be as a **Direct Loan** obtained through our team of local Farm Loan Managers and Officers or the loan can be a **Guaranteed Loan** through our local bank and farm credit association partners. FSA financing helps with farm purchases and payment of operating expenses and provides needed capital in times of emergency.

FSA FUTURE FOCUS

Forward-thinking has always been a focus of the Farm Service Agency. FSA utilizes the latest technology to serve farmers and ranchers in a modern world. **eGov** is a focus to provide more online access and application options for customers to save time and money in the agency's work and for applicants. FSA's **GIS / Satellite Imagery** program increases efficiency in measurement of land and improves the process and product when mapping for farm records.

For more information, contact your nearest USDA/FSA Office, or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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**United States
Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency - California**
430 G Street # 4161
Davis, CA 95616
530-792-5520
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY**
State Office – California
430 “G” Street, #4161
Davis, CA 95616-4161
(530) 792-5520
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

**CALIFORNIA
USDA SERVICE CENTERS**
CED – County Exec. Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
SFLO – Senior Farm Loan Officer

Butte
150 Chuck Yeager Way
Oroville, CA 95965-9215
(530) 534-0112
CED: Rob Maurer
FLO: Ed DeBauche
(530) 527-3013 (Red Bluff)

Colusa
100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. D
Colusa, CA 95932-3246
(530) 458-5131
CED: Denise Nannen
FLM: Michele Larrick
(530) 934-4669 (Willows)

Fresno
4625 W. Jennifer, #109
Fresno, CA 93722-6424
(559) 276-7494
CED: Russ Friend
FLO: Chantal Haun

Glenn
132-A N. Enright Ave.
Willows, CA 95988-2716
(530) 934-4669
CED: Don Perez
FLM: Michele Larrick

Humboldt / Del Norte
5630 S. Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503-6998
(707) 442-6058
CED: shared mgmt w/
Katie Delbar, CED
Mendocino/Lake
FLO: Karri Bartolomei
(707) 468-5278 (Ukiah)

Imperial
177 N. Imperial Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243-2308
(760) 352-4418
CED: Rosa Singh
SFLO: Tom Hunton
(661) 336-0967 (Bakersfield)

Kern
5000 California Ave., Ste. 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711
(661) 336-0967
CED: Joann Esser
SFLO: Tom Hunton

Kings
Kings County Government
680 Campus Dr., Ste. C
Hanford, CA 93230-3556
(559) 582-1071
CED: Kathy Sargent
SFLO: Tom Roberts
(559) 734-8732 (Visalia)

Lassen / Plumas / Sierra
170 Russel Ave., Ste. C
Susanville, CA 96130-4271
(530) 257-4127
CED: shared mgmt w/
Joe Gassaway, CED
Shasta/Trinity
FLO: Ed DeBauche
(530) 527-3013 (Red Bluff)

**Los Angeles / Orange /
San Bernardino**
44811 N. Date Ave., Ste. B
Lancaster, CA 93534-3136
(661) 942-9549
CED: Doug Brand
SFLO: Tom Hunton
(661) 336-0967 (Bakersfield)

Madera
425 N. Gateway Dr. Ste. E
Madera, CA 93637-3187
(559) 674-4628
CED: Joe Grillo
FLM: LaVon Treasure
(209) 725-2964 (Merced)

Mendocino / Lake
1252 Airport Park Blvd. - B1
Ukiah, CA 95482-5979
(707) 468-9225
CED: Katie Delbar
FLO: Karri Bartolomei

Merced / Mariposa
2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Ste. B
Merced, CA 95340-6445
(209) 722-4119
CED: Laura Westerfield
FLM: LaVon Treasure

Modoc
802 W. 12th St.
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-4391
CED: Chris Lauppe
FLM: Katherine Lewis
(530) 842-6123 (Yreka)

**Monterey / San Mateo /
Santa Cruz**
744 LaGuardia St. Ste. A
Salinas, CA 93905
(831) 424-7377
CED: Vivian Soffa
FLM: Melanie Fry

Riverside / San Diego
82-901 Bliss Ave.
Indio, CA 92201-4399
(760) 347-3675
CED: Desiree Houston
SFLO for Riverside: Tom Hunton
(661) 336-0967 (Bakersfield)

**Sacramento / Amador /
Placer / El Dorado**
9701 Dino Drive, Ste. 107
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 714-1104
CED: Ted VanSteyn
FLM: Belle Davis
(209) 472-7127 (Stockton)

San Benito / Santa Clara
2337 Technology Parkway, Ste A
Hollister, CA 95023-2544
(831) 637-4360
CED: Jeannine Leyva
FLM: Melanie Fry
(831) 424-7289 (Salinas)

**San Joaquin / Alameda /
Calaveras / Contra Costa /
San Francisco**
3422 W. Hammer Lane, Ste. C
Stockton, CA 95219
(209) 472-7127
CED: Jeff Torres
FLM: Belle Davis
(209) 472-7127 (Stockton)

San Luis Obispo
65 Main St., Ste. 106 .
Templeton, CA 93465
(805) 434-0398
CED: Jennifer Anderson
FLO: Gary Troester
(805) 928-9269 (Santa Maria)

Santa Barbara / Ventura
920 E. Stowell Rd.
Santa Maria, CA 93454-7008
(805) 928-9269
CED: Brenda Farias
FLO: Gary Troester
(805) 928-9269 (Santa Maria)

Shasta / Trinity
3644 Avtech Parkway, Ste. D
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-2560
CED: Joe Gassaway
FLO: Ed DeBauche
(530) 527-3013 (Red Bluff)

Siskiyou
215 Executive Court, Ste. C
Yreka, CA 96097-2693
(530) 842-6123
CED: Joseph Ulics
FLM: Katherine Lewis

Solano / Napa
1170 N. Lincoln St., Ste. 109
Dixon, CA 95620-4001
(707) 678-1931
CED: Lynda Janne
FLM: Belle Davis
(209) 472-7127 (Stockton)

Sonoma / Marin
1301 Redwood Way, Ste. 190 .
Petaluma, CA 94954-1136
(707) 664-8593
CED: Lisa Velasquez
FLO: Karri Bartolomei
(707) 468-9225 (Ukiah)

Stanislaus / Tuolumne
3800 Cornucopia Wy., Ste. E
Modesto, CA 95358-9492
(209) 491-9320
CED: Jonna Spaletta
FLM: John Oosterman

Sutter / Yuba / Nevada
1521 Butte House Rd, Ste. A
Yuba City, CA 95993-2236
(530) 671-0850
CED: Lance Carter
FLM: Ehab El Liessy
(530) 671-0850 (Yuba City)

Tehama
2 Sutter Street, Ste. C
Red Bluff, CA 96080-4353
(530) 527-3013
CED: Darcy Cullers
FLO: Ed DeBauche
(530) 527-3013 (Red Bluff)

Tulare
3530 W. Orchard Ct.
Visalia, CA 93277-7360
(559) 734-8732
CED: Kaye Rydberg
SFLO: Tom Roberts
(559) 734-8732

Yolo
221 W. Court, Ste. 3B
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 662-3986
CED: Marianne Morton
FLM: Ehab El Liessy
(530) 671-0850
(Yuba City)

Alpine / Inyo / Mono
Minden Office
1702 County Rd., Ste. A1
Minden, NV 89423
(775) 782-3661
CED: shared mgmt w/
Betty Hodik, CED
Lyon County, Nevada
Farm Loan Chief:
Carolyn Persinger
(775) 784-5411
(Reno, NV)

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