

USDA SERVICE CENTER

Contra Costa - Alameda Counties

Farm Service Agency

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Due to the closure of the Contra Costa County FSA Office on September 30, 2005, it has become necessary to consolidate the Local Administrative Areas in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area D & E will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2006. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA D & E and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee.

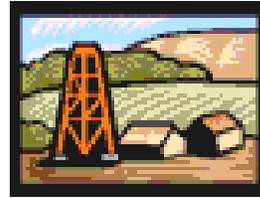
Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

Contra Costa/Alameda County will be holding an election for a person to represent **LAA D (Contra Costa) & E (Alameda)**. That position is currently held by John Ginochio, Glenn Stonebarger and Barbara De Borba in Contra Costa County, Anthony Castello and Scott (Peter) Beyer in Alameda County.

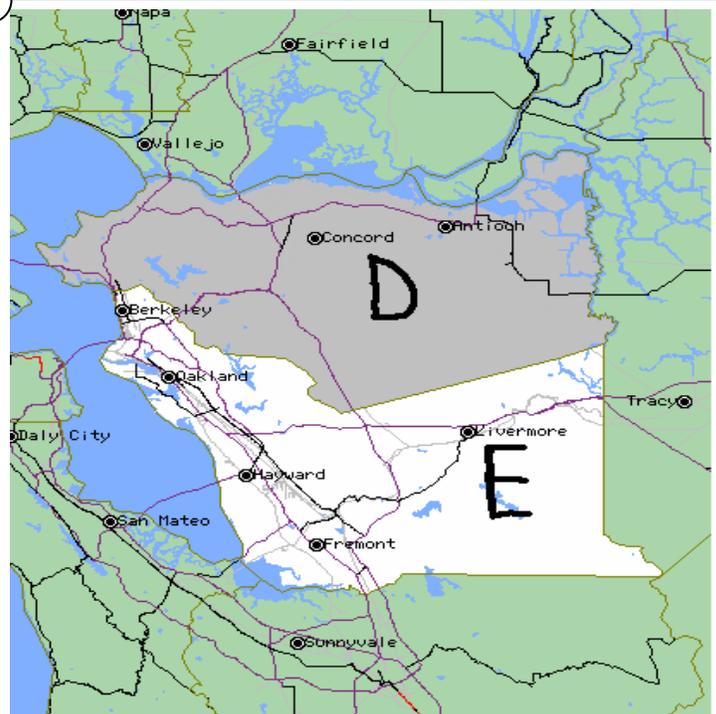
Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 4, 2006.

LAAs are elective areas. Elections are held each year to replace a member whose three-year term will expire. All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establish allotment and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and programs.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



SUMMER
2006



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES!

June 15, 2006 – Nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center.

August 1, 2006 – Last day to file nomination forms at the USDA Service Center.

November 3, 2006 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 4, 2006 – Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

January 1, 2007 – Elected committee members and alternates take office.



NAP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline date for certain 2007 NAP crops is approaching.

The 2007 application closing date for all forage crops and native grass is: **9-1-2006**

NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is equivalent to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance. It's available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock, but is available for forage and rangeland losses.

If you already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops, you may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2007, if the service fee is paid 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 or crops.

If you want to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or change crop shares, you must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

To apply for continuous coverage, producers must timely pay the applicable service fee **before** the application date. Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county, or not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

NOTE: Notice of Loss must be filed in this office within 15 days after the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.

Production records for the 2005 crop year MUST be submitted by July 15, 2006.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS, LDPS

LOANS, LDP (cont'd)

When it comes to loans, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date you request the loan, and you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Loan and LDP "eligible" commodities have been produced by an eligible producer, are in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. You must maintain the quality of the commodity held in farm storage throughout the term of the loan.

Individuals and entities whose previous three-year average adjusted gross income, or AGI, exceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for LDPs and market loan gains unless they can show that at least 75 percent of their AGI comes from agriculture.

The total of LDPs and market loan gains you may receive is limited to \$75,000 per person for each crop year. That means up to \$75,000 for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas, peanuts, wool, mohair and honey, or any combination of the above listed commodities.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs.

Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

ACREAGE REPORTING

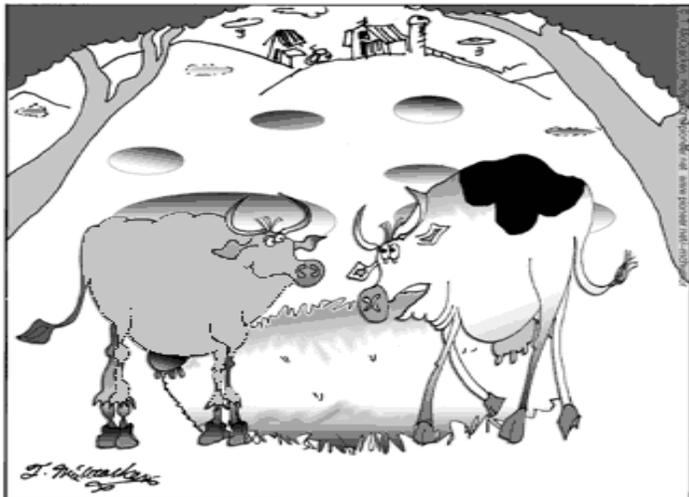
Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Producers are required to file FSA-578 by the applicable final reporting date (April 30 for fall seeded crops and July 15 for spring seeded and/or permanent crops). To be considered timely filed, acreage reports for prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the

- final reporting date for the applicable crop;
- failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

****Please Note:** 2005 fall-seeded crops still needing to be reported **will be charged a \$25.00 per farm late-file fee.**

MCHUMOR by T. McCracken



"Let's eat the grass in perfect circles.
It drives them crazy."



WEBSITES

National FSA Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

California FSA Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/ca.htm>

Up-to-date information on the new Farm Bill:

<http://www.agriculturelaw.com>

California Natural Resources Conservation

Service: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov>

California Rangelands Research and Information
Center:

<http://agronomy.ucdavis.edu>



ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) – In order to be eligible for USDA Programs, Producers must meet AGI provisions. If you are applying for a program, and you are an individual, in the 3 years prior to the year in which you are applying, your **averaged** adjusted gross income cannot be over \$2.5 million dollars UNLESS at least 75% of that income is from farming. If your off-farm income represents more than 75% of your total income, you **WILL NOT** be eligible for USDA programs.

The same is true of all entities, except General Partnerships. General Partnerships are exempt from the AGI Rule – just the individual members are asked for the information regarding their individual income. In the case of all other entities (Corps, LLC's,

USDA EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

Pursuant to President Bush's declaration of an emergency in the state of California on February 3, 2006, 29 counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by severe storms, including January 3, 2006. Included in the 29 states are:

San Joaquin

Contra Costa

In addition, the following contiguous counties are eligible:

Alameda

Calaveras

Farmers in the above listed counties have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of the actual losses. To be eligible, they must:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be UNABLE to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security, and
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, which reflects the exact date(s) and nature of the designated disaster and how it caused the loss or damage. Crop insurance field reports may be a source for documenting losses directly related to the cited cause.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications expires on October 3, 2006.

Applications should be filed with your FSA Service Center at 3422 W. Hammer Lane, Suite C, Stockton, CA.

2006 DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The deadline to enroll for the 2006 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program year was June 1, 2006. Appointment notification letters were sent to all producers eligible to enroll in the 2006 DCP year. There will be a \$100 fee for each farm enrolled after the June 1 deadline, up until September 30, 2006. **No farms may be enrolled for the 2006 DCP year after this date.** If you would like to sign up for the 2006 DCP year, or if you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the office to schedule an appointment before September 30, 2006.



WOOL-MOHAIR LOANS & LDP'S

Producers have **until Jan. 31, 2007**, to request LDPs for 2005-crop wool and mohair that have not yet been marketed and remain in storage. If LDPs are not requested, producers have until Jan. 31, 2007, to request loans for 2006-crop wool or mohair. To be eligible for a nine-month marketing assistance loan or LDP for wool or mohair, producers must demonstrate compliance with wetland and highly erodible land conservation requirements.

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**SAN JOAQUIN / CALAVERAS
 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE**

PATTI SPENCE Chairman
KEVIN DELU Vice-Chairman
RUDY MUSSI Regular Member
ANGELO STAGNARO Regular Member



WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING DEADLINES!



Deadlines	Program
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – FSA offices closed
July 15	Last day to report spring-seeded crops
September 30	Last day to file for 2006 DCP, with Late File Fee of \$100
Continues	GRP Program

