



Farm Service Agency - Description

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

U.S. Farmers and ranchers have to contend with a variety of natural disasters including fire, flood, freeze, wind and lately, severe drought. FSA Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program options to manage business risks in farming and ranching greatly assist producers who have suffered losses from these unfortunate conditions.

Disaster assistance programs currently in effect to assist farmers and ranchers in recovering from crop, orchard and livestock losses due to natural disasters. Programs include the **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)** and the **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP.)** SURE applies through the 2011 crop year and requires NAP participation or crop insurance coverage.

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.

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

COMMODITY SUPPORT

The **Marketing Assistance Loan** program provides farmers with an alternative to selling crops at harvest when prices tend to be low. Farmers can receive a loan using their crops as collateral and make repayment after the seasonal rise in prices. If prices fall, crop collateral can be forfeited or sold at a per-bushel rate.

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.

For dairies, FSA's **Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)** provides a degree of protection from extreme market price fluctuations that can occur in milk and milk product prices.

ENVIRONMENT and ENERGY

FSA administers conservation and environmental programs and activities to conserve our Nation's natural resources, including land, water, air, fish and wildlife. The **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** is a voluntary program in which agricultural landowners receive annual rental payments in return for putting farmland into environmentally friendly conservation uses. Landowners can also receive cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conservation practices.

MANAGING CREDIT NEEDS

FSA makes loans and loan guarantees and provides credit counseling to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. FSA loan applicants can be beginning farmers who do not qualify for conventional loans because of insufficient net worth or established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters or economic downturns. FSA loan funds are designated either as Operating Loans or Ownership Loans and have those two separate purposes.

FSA makes **Direct Loans** directly to producers and **Guaranteed Loans** through commercial bank partners.

The new **MICROLOAN Program** with reduced paperwork, a \$35,000 ceiling and low interest rates better serves the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smaller farm operations that are prevalent in California.

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. **eGovernment** is a continual focus to provide more online access and online

application options for customers. **eGov** is saving time and money in the agency's work and will drastically reduce travel costs for applicants. FSA's **GIS / Satellite Imagery** program increases efficiency in measurement of land and improves the process and product when maps are required for farm records.

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

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FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
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