

# Farm Service Agency

Milk

January 2007  
Issue 1

## Farm Service Agency

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### County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jim O'Neil and Robert Tedsen who were re-elected to the County Committee. Jim O'Neil will represent farmers from Southeastern Humboldt County and Robert Tedsen will represent farmers in Southern Del Norte County. Both were elected to their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term on the County Committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in February to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

### 2007 Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers enrolled in the 2007 Non-insured Assistance Program must file Form CCC-576, "NAP Notice of Loss" within 15 days of a disaster condition, or within 15 days of when the damage to the crop becomes apparent. If you feel you are experiencing a loss to your crop and have NAP coverage, please call the FSA office and request a form.



### Producers Reminded of Program Requirements

Producers must submit form CCC-580M, "Milk Income Loss Contract Extension (MILCX) Modification," to make changes to their start month, modify producer shareholder information, make organizational modifications, or to initiate a dairy operation relocation and contract transfer. This form must be submitted to the County Office on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month originally selected as the start month or as the newly selected start month. If the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month falls on a weekend, the dairy operation production start month selection must be made on the last working day proceeding the weekend. The start month designation cannot be changed if the new month being selected has already begun or already passed. To obtain a form please call the office at (707) 442-6058x2.

### Signing for Entities

In simpler times, when a producer visited the county office to sign a form there was no question about how to sign. The producer simply signed his or her name on the dotted line.

In today's world of "entities" — trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations — signing Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation forms isn't so simple. First, you have to have a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

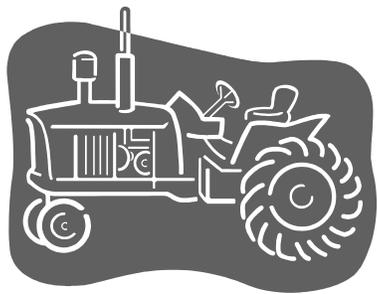
Farm Service Agency  
5630 S. Broadway  
Eureka, CA 95503  
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Second, you have to know how you're supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you're signing for an entity, your signature has to include "by" or "for," indicating you're signing in a representative capacity.

For example, say you have a partnership, the John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, and you're authorized to sign for the partnership. Acceptable signatures include "by George C. Smith"; "by George C. Smith, Partner"; and "John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, by George C. Smith, Partner."

Remember, if you've established an entity for your operation, you can no longer sign forms and contracts as yourself. When you have signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity, not yourself.

If you have questions about the proper way to sign forms and contracts for your entity, contact the county office staff. We can review the records and help determine the acceptable signature for your situation.



## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. Acceptable spousal signatures include:

- By Mary Smith
- Joe Smith by Mary Smith
- By Mary Smith, spouse

- Mary Smith for Joe Smith

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

## Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an accurate 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 Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by July 15, 2007. To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

We will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. We will also accept crop acreage reports for any purpose for all

producers.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers the program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing.

Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Online Services

If you are among the growing number of producers that have access to the Internet at home, you might be interested in USDA's online services that are available to you. Here's a quick run down of available services.

- The USDA Customer Statement. This provides the producer online access 24/7 to the farm's USDA business transactions in a single report accessed with one login and password. It includes participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs, farm loans, maps, and land unit information.
- eLDP is the Farm Service Agency's electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Service. This allows producers to request LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

- eDCP is the FSA’s electronic Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. This allows producers to enroll in DCP online, choose DCP payment options, assign crop shares, and sign and submit contracts, view and print them out at any time.
- My USDA is an online portal the producer can create. It can be customized so that the news, reports, links, and USDA business data most important to the producer will immediately be viewable.

Stop by the county office for assistance in obtaining a USDA eAuthentication Service Level 2 Customer Account. This provides a single user ID and password that grants access to the Customer Statement, and many other USDA e-Services, including submitting forms online through USDA e-File, such as eLDP and eDCP.

## Requesting LDPs for 2007

To request 2006 crop loan deficiency payments, you must use the CCC-633 EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request. Here’s an explanation for each page of the form.

**Page 1** – Producer’s *intention to request* LDPs in the future.

- Must be signed before beneficial interest is lost.
- Terms and conditions for requesting LDPs.
- Covers all farms and all eligible crops in all counties.
- Submit one to the county office staff. Remind staff of other counties where you have farming interest.
- This is your intention to request an LDP in the future. It is not a request for payment.

**Page 2** – Producer’s *request for LDP payment on feed grains, minor*

*oilseeds, rice and pulses.*

- Use after grain is harvested and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. The LDP rate will be the rate in effect on the date page 2 is received in the office.
- Can use after beneficial interest is lost. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- Use when you wish to receive LDP rate based upon date commodity was delivered to warehouse. You must maintain beneficial interest from harvest through delivery to the warehouse. Complete all required sections including item 23B.

**Page 4** – Producer’s *request for LDP payment on sheared wool, sheared mohair or unshorn pelts.*

- Use when wool or mohair is sheared and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. LDP rate is based on the date page 4 is received in county office.
- Use if beneficial interest is lost at shearing. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- For unshorn pelts, page 4 is submitted within 60 days of slaughter. LDP rate is based upon date of delivery to slaughter company or buyer. Additional sheared wool and mohair and unshorn pelts information may be obtained from the county office.

## 1099s

During the last week of January, producers who have received payment from FSA receive a CCC-1099 in the mail from our Kansas City office. A CCC-1099 is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the year. The CCC-1099 is a service to help you report taxable income. It

is not intended to replace your responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you receive a CCC-1099, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with your records to see that the amounts are correct. If you find the amounts are not correct, or if you have a question concerning the form contact us. If you choose to visit the office, bring the CCC-1099 with you so that we may more readily identify the questionable items. If there is an error, we will furnish you with a corrected form CCC-1099.



## Office Staff Changes

Bryan Laughlin, Farm Loan Officer will be leaving the Mendocino/Lake County office on January 19, 2007. He has accepted a Farm Loan Specialist job with the California State FSA office in Davis. We wish him luck with his new job. Belle Davis, farm loan manager will take over Bryan’s duties until the position is filled.

We welcome Karri Bartolomei to the FSA team. She has been hired on as a full time farm loan technician. Karri was born and raised in Ukiah. She is a graduate of Ukiah High School and received an associate’s degree in Agriculture Business at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Oregon. Karri is very excited to be working in the field of agriculture and looks forward to working with producers in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

January 2007

United States Department of Agriculture  
Humboldt/Del Norte Farm Service Agency  
5630 S. Broadway  
Eureka, CA 95503



**Humboldt/Del Norte County**

**Committee Members**

Gary Nicholson	Chairperson
Jim O'Neil	Vice-Chairperson
Robert Tedsen	Member
Robert Vevoda	Member
Joey Borges	Member
Kara Miller	Advisor

**County Executive Director    Farm Loan Manger**

Katherine Delbar                      Belle Davis

**Program Technicians            Farm Loan Technician**

Dolores Mayorga                      Karri Bartolomei

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