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**Web Sites:**  
FSA: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
USDA: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**County Committee:**  
Curt Corda-Chair  
Gary Mamer –Vice Chair  
Mike Palmer-Reg. Mbr.

**Advisor-**  
Raul Rodriguez, Jr.

**Staff:**  
Rosalinda Singh-Director  
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June 2006

Imperial County

# FSA NEWS

## County Committee Nominations & Elections

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees (COC) is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because COC's are a direct link between the farm community and USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

This year's committee elections will be held in Local Administrative Area #1 – that part of Imperial County south of Keystone Road. Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2006 for eligible candidates to serve on FSA's COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing socially disadvantaged (minorities and women) farmers and ranchers may nominate candidates. To hold office as an FSA COC member, a person must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election.
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate (in some cases this requirement may be waived).

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. Check with your local FSA office for voting requirements and eligibility if uncertain about your eligibility to vote. A nomination form is enclosed for convenience and is also available in a Spanish version. The form must be signed by the nominee and includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. All nomination forms for the 2006 election must be received in the county FSA office or postmarked by August 1. Eligible members of socially disadvantaged groups are strongly urged to participate. For more information on the nomination & election process for this year's elections contact this office or visit the following website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections).

## 2006 Acreage Reporting Deadline

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops/commodities and land uses can prevent loss of benefits for certain programs including Loans & LDP's, DCP and NAP. The acreage reporting deadline for small grains was March 15, 2006. The acreage reporting deadline for hay, corn, soybeans, fruits, vegetables and all other crops is **July 15, 2006**.

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| July 04, 2006     | HOLIDAY – Office Closed  |
| July 15, 2006     | Acreage Reporting deadline for all crops other than Small Grains |
| July 26, 2006     | Next COC Meeting-Subject to change                               |
| August 1, 2006    | Deadline to submit COC nomination forms                          |
| Sept. 30, 2006    | Deadline for late-filed DCP enrollment                           |
| Sept. 30, 2007    | Extended MILC Extension Program Signup Deadline                  |

## Late-filed Provisions for DCP Sign-up



DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments; direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. Farm producers must apply for DCP on an annual basis and can opt out of participating for any year if they so choose. Annual acreage reports are required to participate in DCP. Remember, we will need to know all farm changes that have taken place since last year and you'll need to bring in copies of all new leases, deeds, etc.

**Deadline to timely enroll in 2006 DCP was 6/1/06.** Late-filed contracts will be accepted June 2, 2006 through September 30, 2006 if accompanied by a \$100.00 late-filed fee. Any late-filed 2006 contracts received between 6/2/06 and 9/30/06 not accompanied by the late-filed fee CANNOT be processed for program and/or payment purposes. Farm producers must apply for DCP on an annual basis and can opt out of the program for any year if they so choose.

The President's recent signature of the Agricultural reconciliation Act of 2005 provided for modifications to the DCP advance payment percentages for FY2006 and FY2007. For all 2006 farms enrolled after February 8, 2006 the DCP direct advance payment percentage applicable for the contract is 40%. For 2007, the advance payment percentage will be 22% for all farms. Contact Maria for more information on DCP.

**ACCOMMODATIONS TO FACILITIES & PROGRAMS:** Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (760) 347-3675 Ext.2.

**MILCX EXTENDED SIGNUP:** The extended signup phase for the MILCX program began May 18 and ends September 30, 2007. MILCX allows the continuation of financial assistance to dairy operations in connection with production sold in the commercial market when domestic prices fall below a specified level. Dairy operations that submit a MILCX for benefits during the extended signup phase can select as the MILCX production start month either the month the MILCX is submitted or from the remaining months in the fiscal year for which the payment rate is not known, and according to the start month selection process. Contact this office for more information regarding this program.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Farm Service Agency  
 Imperial County FSA Office  
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