



USDA SERVICE CENTER NEWS

KINGS COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

TELEPHONE (559) 585-8732 FAX (559) 584-8715

Vol. 2007 No. 2

April 2007

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES COMING



Acreage reporting time is here! Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. In addition to the crop identified by the producer, planting dates are also being requested on a field by field basis. In some cases, variety (i.e. durum, white, red wheat) may be necessary as well.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are to be certified by **April 30** for all fall-seeded crops such as small grains and **July 16** for all other crops. **Please note** that the late reporting fee for 2007 has changed from previous years. The fee is now \$15 per farm + (\$16 x hours) + (\$0.485 x mileage) and will be assessed on any farm not fully reported by the established deadlines, with the acreage subject to mandatory spot-check. The hours are those hours which are used when making a field visit (or would have been used for a physical visit, if aerial images are used for spot-check and measurement) to verify your late-certified acreage, and the mileage is the round trip mileage to your field(s) from the office. The fee is the same for any requested measurement services performed by the office staff. In most cases, this will represent a substantial increase in the fee over past years, so it is very important to certify your acreage timely.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Please call for an appointment now

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through August 3, 2007. Previously, this deadline was June 1, 2007. This deadline has been extended to August 3, 2007 as a result of computer problems and other delays experienced by the agency. Farms not enrolled or missing signatures by August 3, 2007 will be considered late filed and will be assessed a late-filed signup fee of \$100 per farm. Producers are reminded that signups are now taken annually for this program. Even if you signed up in 2006, you must sign a new contract for 2007.

To be eligible for payments under DCP, owners, tenants, landlords, operators and sharecroppers must: 1) Share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP; 2) annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage; 3) comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land; 4) comply with planting flexibility requirements; 5) use the base acres for agricultural or related activities; 6) protect all base acres from erosion, as well as providing weed control and 7) meet all other eligibility requirements. Please call for an appointment.



**USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY
680 CAMPUS DRIVE SUITE C
HANFORD, CA 93230**



LOAN DEFICIENCY PROGRAM REMINDER

Producers are reminded that in order to be eligible for a 2007 loan deficiency payment (LDP), form CCC-633 EZ must be on file for all persons receiving a share of the crop, prior to losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity. If you have enrolled in the 2007 Direct & Counter Cyclical program, you have probably already signed page 1 of this form. By signing the first page of the form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. The first page covers all eligible harvested commodities for the entire year for the person (entity) named on the form. Once the first page has been filed, producers can submit a LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton. Page 3 is to be completed for cotton, and page 4 is to be completed for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. Although high commodity prices have currently led to zero rates for most crops, this form should be signed just in case rates become active again. Producers may check daily rates at the FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov. Click on "View Daily LDP rates".

SIGNATURE AUTHORITIES FOR ALL PROGRAMS

A recent audit of county office records has revealed a need to verify that persons signing on behalf of others have a current and updated power of attorney. If legal papers (such as partnership agreements, corporation papers, trust agreements, etc.) do not specifically state that one partner/member may sign on behalf of the partnership/entity, new proof of signature authorization will be requested. This may be in the form of a power of attorney or some other legal document. Even if you have been allowed to sign in the past, you may be required to update your signature authority. Signature authority applies to both the partnership/entity itself, as well as the members. Form FSA-211, Power of Attorney Form, may be requested from any FSA County Office or obtained online. This form must be witnessed in any FSA County Office or notarized and only authorizes actions within the Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation or Federal Crop Insurance Corporation programs. Power of Attorney can be given for all actions or only for specific items. Without a single signature authority, all partners/members will be required to sign most documents. Please check your partnership/entity papers as soon as possible, to see if you need to update your authorities.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202/720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.