

United States Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

Mendocino/Lake County



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The FSA County Committee

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is a federal agency guided by the farmers and ranchers it serves. This approach to program delivery sets FSA apart from other federal agencies. Farmers and ranchers elect representatives from their community to serve on their local FSA County Committees (COC). Local elected COC consist of three to five members and provide producers with a much needed say in how Federal actions affect their own individual operations. Members make decisions on a number of important issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, and farm disaster assistance.

County Committee Nominations

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee Election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 and 3 are being accepted June 15 through August 1, 2007. Producers that are eligible to vote in LAA 1 or 3 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 candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.



Thank You to Richard LaMalfa

Richard La Malfa was first elected to the Mendocino/Lake County FSA Committee in 1998. He farms grapes at his home in Potter Valley and pears and grapes in Ukiah. He has served on the Committee for nine years, which represents three consecutive three-year terms which is the maximum that a person can serve on the Committee. His last term will be completed in December of this year. Richard has been elected as chairperson to the Committee for the last three years by the other members of the board. He serves on the Committee with Dan Campbell from Laytonville, Walter Stornetta, Manchester, Dave Mostin, Kelseyville, Tim Strong, Upper Lake and Betty Foster from Redwood Valley.

I feel honored to have been able to work with Richard over the last 9 years. He is very fair and knowledgeable about crops being grown in the County. His passion for and commitment to agriculture and the producers of Lake and Mendocino County has provided the County Committee and the FSA

staff with invaluable input and experience. I will miss his sense of humor and open discussions on any and all subjects. Richard is a person who can see through the layers of a problem and get to the heart of the matter.

“Richard will really be missed on the Board. He is a good listener and always, every time, asks good questions, has a good handle on the subject at hand and comes back with a well thought-out response,” said Tim Strong.

“Richard is easy to work with and has a great personality. It’s always a pleasure to have him stop by the office. We will sorely miss him and hope he continues to stop by time to time,” stated Joleen Logan, FSA staff.

The Mendocino/Lake County FSA Committee and Staff thank Richard for all of his time he has so freely given to the FSA as well as his commitment to agriculture.



Katie Delbar
County Executive Director

Welcome to Farm Loan Officer Trainee Stacey Moyles

We welcome Stacey Moyles to the Mendocino/Lake County FSA office. Stacey is our new Farm Loan Officer Trainee, replacing Bryan Laughlin who recently transferred to the California State FSA Office. Stacey’s family is originally from Kansas where they raised grass hay and beef cattle. She grew up in Placer County where her parents worked as arborists. Stacey attended Sierra college in Rocklin and then transferred to California State University, Chico. In 2006 she received her Bachelors Degree in Animal Science. After graduating from college, Stacey worked at Charles River Laboratories in Sparks, NV as a lab technician. She then moved to the Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) in Reno NV working as an office automation clerk.

Stacey is excited to be working here at FSA. “I always wanted to work in a career where agriculture and business intermingle.” Throughout the year, Stacey will be attending several trainings which will eventually qualify her to become a Farm Loan Officer. She is looking forward to meeting the current farm loan borrowers and the farmers and ranchers throughout her counties.

Lake and Mendocino Counties Eligible for USDA Emergency Farm Loan Assistance

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture’s designation of an emergency in the state of California on March 21, 2007, Lake and Mendocino County have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of Physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by extremely low temperatures, freezing conditions, and drought which occurred on December 28, 2006, through February 7, 2007.

Farmers in Lake and Mendocino county have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of their 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 reflect 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.

California FSA Announces Agricultural Disaster Program Information

John Smythe, State Director of the California Farm Service Agency is pleased to announce that agricultural producers who have suffered losses as a result of natural disasters will be able to count on the United States Department of Agriculture for assistance.

Contained in Public Law No: 110-28, U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, was a multi-program package to help farmers in California who have suffered losses over the past three years.

"Specific details are not yet available," said Smythe. "But the aid package will certainly be a big help for the states growers who have suffered substantial losses. As more information becomes available we will provide updates and we encourage anyone interested to access our website where we will post information as soon as it becomes available: www.fsa.usda.gov."

Smythe continued, "Sign up for the Ag disaster programs will most likely occur later this fall. It takes time for the Farm Service Agency to write the regulations and to develop the necessary software programs. We are asking producers to be patient and read their FSA county office newsletters for program sign up information."

A few program specifics are:

Crop Disaster Program (CDP): All crops are eligible. However, producer must have purchased crop insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before February 28, 2007) as a result of a natural disaster. The producer will choose one year for benefits. Quality loss assistance will be available for some crops.

Livestock Programs: Producers choose for each livestock program one of the three years for which they would receive benefits. Most California counties are eligible.

The Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (up to February 28, 2007). Eligible livestock are: Dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer and catfish.

The Livestock Indemnity Program makes payments available to producers that have incurred more than normal livestock losses between Jan 1, 2005 and Feb 28, 2007, due to a disaster. A producer will select the losses in one year for benefits.

Dairy Programs:

The Dairy Assistance Program compensates producers for reduced milk production due to natural disaster in a declared disaster county. Nationwide, \$16 million is available.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program:

This program extends the MILC program for one additional month, through September 30, 2007.

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Mendocino/Lake County Committee Members

Richard LaMalfa	Chairperson
Tim Strong	Vice-Chairperson
Walter Stornetta	Member
Dan Campbell	Member
David Mostin	Member
Betty Foster	Advisor

Mendocino/Lake County FSA Office Staff

County Executive Director	Farm Loan Manger
Katherine Delbar	Belle Davis
Program Technician	Farm Loan Officer Trainee
Lesalee Miles-Miller	Stacey Moyles
Joleen Logan	Farm Loan Technician
	Karri Bartolomei

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