

June 2006

Modoc County News



**Modoc County
USDA Service Center
Modoc County FSA**
802 W 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-4391 (phone)
530-233-8869 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Kathy Ackley, Chair
Dwight Beeson, V. Chair
Darrell DePaul, Member
Richard Blizzeard, Advisor
Ron Schluter, Alternate
G. Dave Boneck, Alternate

Staff
Marlene Hamilton, Program Technician

Christopher Lauppe,
County Executive Director

Katherine Lewis, Farm
Loan Officer (Yreka)

Genie Caudill, District Director (Redding)



Make a Difference

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Modoc County Farm Service Agency county committee to represent the Tulelake Basin area of the county. Kathy Ackley, committee chairperson, currently represents this area.

This is an important time for the community because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers weather tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the CED for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address.

Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 4 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2007. We are looking for at least three nominees for this election.

Make a Difference: Nominate and Vote!

Youth Project Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

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.

Tulelake Basin Farmers Note:

The Modoc County FSA office is in the Tulelake Service Center on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM (including lunch time) through the summer to assist you with filing crop acreage reports and other FSA business.



To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by July 17.

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting 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.

Farms with DCP contracts have been mailed aerial photocopies to assist with crop reporting.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General.

Requesting LDP's for 2006

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 each crop year 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 grain hays, minor oilseeds, and pulses (dry peas).

- Use after crop 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 3 – Producer's *request for LDP* payment on *specific bales of cotton* (not applicable to Modoc County).

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

- Use when wool or mohair is sheared and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. LDP rate is based on 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.

Page 5 – Used when additional signatures are needed.

Additional items to remember

- The next time you're in the county office, please verify you've signed and submitted page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ.
- Submit CCC-633 EZ, page 2, 3 or 4 for each LDP payment in person, by fax, by mail or by filing electronically.
- Submit payment requests before the final loan availability date.



- You can use eLDP Web site to request LDP if you have e-Authentication and page 1 has been received in the county office.
- Contact our office for details.
- Form can be found at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.
- FSA Web site for price supports is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/default.htm>.
- The total of LDP's and market loan gains a producer may receive is limited to \$75,000 for each crop year.
- You do not have to participate in the DCP program to be eligible for loans or LDP's.
- LDP's are not loans. They are an important part of FSA program payments available to many farmers. There are no fees!
- LDP rates vary with the market price of the commodity. When the commodity price goes up – the LDP payment rate goes down. The LDP rate for wool is adjusted weekly. The LDP rate for other eligible crops is adjusted M,T,W,T and F.

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.

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.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2006	
Farm Operating - Direct	5.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.500%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.000%
Sugar Storage Facility	5.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.000%

2006 DCP Contracts

The late file period for DCP contracts began June 2 and runs until September 30, 2006. The fee for late filed contracts is \$100 per farm. Late file contract provisions also apply to contracts that are amended after June 1, to revise payment shares, persons receiving payment, and changes due to farm reconstitutions.

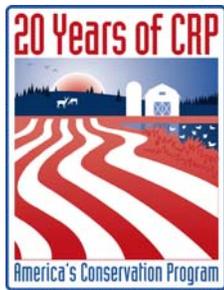
2007 DCP Contracts

Sign-up for 2007 begins October 1 with advance payments available in December. 2007 will be the last year of the current farm bill.

Non-Insured Assistance Program

September 1, 2006 is the final date to purchase NAP crop insurance coverage for many 2007 crops in Modoc County including 1st year Alfalfa, older Alfalfa stands, small grain hay, grass hay, triticale (all uses), dry peas (all uses), pasture, range, and other forage crops. December 15, 2006 is the final date for Peppermint and Horseradish. March 1, 2007, is the date for Rye grain.





2002 Census of Agriculture

The Census for Modoc County indicated that there were 428 farms with 608,928 acres with crops sales having a market value of \$32,961,000 and livestock sales accounting for \$19,574,000. Government payments that year were \$1,219,000. There were 83,380 acres of forage land for hay, 9,830 acres of barley, 4,750 acres of wild rice, 3,763 acres of wheat, and 2,966 acres of potatoes, 75,193 head of cattle and calves, 7,055 sheep and lambs, and 1,365 horses. The average age of farm operators was 57.0 years.

Farm Changes

To assist you with farm program applications and participation we need accurate information concerning your farming operation. When you have changes in land ownership, land rental, rental terms, farming entity, and addresses, please let us know as soon as possible.

Dates to Remember	
July 17	Final acreage reporting date for all crops.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. USDA offices closed.
August 1	Final date to request farm re-constitution for current fiscal year.
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
Sept. 1	Deadline for purchase of NAP insurance coverage for all forage crops and some other crops.

Note: Late File Crop Acreage Reports. Crop acreage reports filed after July 17 must be charged for a farm visit to verify planted crops. Report early.

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