



## **Modoc County News**

### **Modoc County USDA Service Center**

**Modoc County FSA**  
802 W 12<sup>th</sup> 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**  
C. Dwight Beeson, Chair  
Darrell DePaul, Vice Chair  
Kathy Ackley, Member

**Staff**  
**Farm Programs:**  
Marlene Hamilton, PT  
Chris Lauppe, CED  
**Farm Loans:**  
Katherine Lewis, FLO  
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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Last date to sign up  
for.....

**Acreege Reports**  
July 16<sup>th</sup>

**2007 DCP**  
**August 3.**

**or**  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>**  
(with \$100 late fee)

**2008 NAP**  
See last page

### **Acreege 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. Acreage reports are required for participants in Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (**DCP**), Conservation Reserve Program (**CRP**), Non-insured Assistance Program (**NAP**), as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments(**LDP**).

To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by **July 16.**

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.

Note:

Aerial photocopies have been mailed to many participating farms to assist producers with making acreage reports. This is a service of the office. It is still the responsibility of the farmer to file a timely crop acreage report.

### **DCP Deadline**

The deadline to sign up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007. Those producers who have eligible crop acreage base farms and have not yet enrolled in the program have been given additional time to sign up their farms. This is an annual program that requires a new signed contract every year. Call today to make an appointment to enroll your farm.

### **New Disaster Programs**

As part of new legislation passed by Congress last month, a multi-program package to help farmers in the US who have suffered losses over the past three years will soon be available.

Specific details are not yet available. As more information becomes available we will provide updates. Information will soon be available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). We anticipate that sign-up will occur later this fall.

**Programs for Modoc County farmers will include:**

#### **Crop Disaster Program:**

All crops are eligible. **However**, producers must have purchased Multi-Peril Crop Insurance or coverage under the agency's Non-insured Assistance Program for the disaster year in order to qualify. Eligible losses are those that exceeded 35 percent and occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 (2007 crops must have been planted before Feb. 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 as well.

#### **Youth Loans**

Loans are available to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar operations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay to loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

## **COC Election Nominations**

From now through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Modoc County Farm Service Agency County Committee for the Alturas/Likely/Canby/Adin/Lookout/Day area. This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, 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 manage 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 County Executive Director 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 ends Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan.1, 2008.

## **Requesting LDPs for 2007**

To request 2007 crop loan deficiency payments, you must use the CCC-633 EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request. Page 1 of this form must be on file in the FSA office prior to losing beneficial interest in your crops. This is your intention to request an LDP in the future. Crop prices were up for wheat, barley, and oats in 2006 therefore LDP payments did not come into effect much that year. Payments were made for wool and unshorn slaughter lambs. Be prepared for 2007 and make sure you have filed page 1 of the CCC-633-EZ.

## **Continuous CRP Program**

*Modoc County farmers and ranchers seeking to protect riparian corridors, establish windbreaks or add vegetated filter strips to their land may have new financial incentives to do so. Under recently announced changes to USDA's Conservation Reserve Program's continuous signup, higher rental payments and special incentives will result in significantly higher payments for participation in key areas.*

*Using the new payments a rancher in Modoc County interested in protecting an eroding riparian area could receive technical and financial assistance to plant streambanks with trees and other plants, fence the riparian area from cattle, and provide alternate watering sites for the livestock. Combining cost share and incentive payments, the rancher could receive up to 90 % of the cost of establishing the conservation practices..*

*Unlike the regular CRP program, the continuous signup allows eligible landowners to enroll highly sensitive land in the 10-15 year contracts without waiting for a sign-up period or competing against other offers. NRCS works with FSA and landowners to voluntarily install conservation practices on CRP land, thereby protecting streams and rivers, keeping sediment and nutrients from entering water, providing cleaner drinking water, enhancing recreation, and improving wildlife habitats.*

*For more information on eligibility, conservation practices and appropriate incentive and rental rates, landowners should contact the FSA office at (530) 233-4391.*

## **Foreign Landowner Notification**

Foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

## **NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) UPDATE**

It's critical that producers file their 2008 applications for coverage and pay their service fees by the sales closing date. Like crop insurance, once an application period closes, the opportunity to obtain coverage is gone. The NAP program is an insurance program FSA offers to farmers growing crops that are not insurable through the USDA Risk Management Agency. NAP covers losses exceeding 50% and pay at 65% of the county crop value.

Sales closing dates for 2008 are:

Alfalfa Hay, Small Grain Hay, Pasture, and all other forage crops – 9-1-07

Apples, Mint, Rye Grain – 12-15-07

Fall Planted Seed Crops – 8-1-07

Honey – 12-1-07

Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture and forage crops. NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$100 per crop, per producer with a \$300 cap per county. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

**\*\*Please remember to report all crop losses within 15 days of the natural occurrence\*\***

To take full advantage of the NAP program, farmers should turn in each year's production evidence by the next years acreage reporting date (July 15). This will insure a payment yield that will be representative of expected production. Without production evidence, our office must use 65% of T (county average) for that crop. This normally results in either no or a small NAP payment if there is a disaster. Producers are also allowed to bring in production evidence for up to 10 previous year.

### **FARM LOANS**

Are you unable to get financing from a commercial lending source? Contact Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Officer, for farm ownership loans, farm operating loans, beginning farmer loans, and emergency loans. Youth Loans up to \$5,000 are also available for kids aged 10 to 20.

### **NRCS NEWS**

Matt Drechsel has been selected as the new District Conservationist for the Alturas NRCS Office. Matt comes from Bozeman, Montana. His first day here was June 11. Sandy Higa has retired from the NRCS but remains active in natural resource issues and committees in Modoc County. Long time staff members Larry Flournoy and Tom Hill are still with the office. Contact the office for conservation planning assistance and to sign-up for the 2008 Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP).

### **TULELAKE OFFICE DATES**

Modoc County FSA will have a staff person in the Tulelake office on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM through June, July, and August to assist producers with crop acreage reports (and late filed reports), DCP participation contracts and forms, and producer eligibility issues for the NRCS EQIP program. Please take advantage of this service and stop by and see me. Save a trip to Alturas. Chris.

### **DCP PARTICIPATION AND CROP ACREAGE REPORTS**

Marlene spends a lot of time preparing DCP contracts and acreage reports for farms with crop bases. These are worked up and mailed out so participants don't have to take the time and expense to drive into Alturas to sign-up. **Please don't leave these envelopes sitting on your desk! Get them completed and mailed back in!** Tulelake producers may bring the documents in to the Tulelake office on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM for assistance and delivery. Thanks, Chris.

**USDA offices will be closed July 4 for Independence Day**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Modoc County USDA Service Center  
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Alturas, CA 96101



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