



April 2007

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

USDA Service Center

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

FSA County Committee

Ed Roth, LAA#3
Sam (Bud) Mann, LAA#4
Rich Uto, LAA#1
Bill Whitney LAA#2

Minority Advisors

Alicia Alvarez
Dominic Muzzi

County Committee Election Results and Update

The following candidates were elected county committee members for another three year term to the local FSA Committee, effective January 1, 2007. Thank you for taking the time to vote and return your ballots:

South Monterey County (LAA#3)

Ed Roth, Member
Harry Miller, 1st Alternate

Santa Cruz/San Mateo Counties (LAA#4)

Sam “Bud” Mann, Regular Member
Nita Gizdich, 1st Alternate
N. Dominic Muzzi, 2nd Alternate

The 2007 election is coming soon and nomination forms can now be filed if you farm and reside in the central Monterey coast area (local administrative area LAA#2). Eligible nominees may file their nomination forms (FSA-669A) in the county office no later than August 1, 2007.

Emergency Loans Available

Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans for several natural disaster conditions. Emergency loans provide assistance to farmers due to physical and production losses as a result of a natural disaster. All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, and file an application in the county office by the applicable deadline listed below. To be eligible, you must: (1) have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause; (2) be able to repay the loan and any other loans, (3) be unable to obtain credit elsewhere, (4) have adequate security, and (5) have multi-peril

crop insurance, if available. The current disaster declarations are:

Excessive heat conditions which occurred on July 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006. Deadline to apply for an emergency loan for losses related to this declaration is May 7, 2007.

Freezing conditions and extremely low temperatures, which occurred on January 6, 2007 through January 19, 2007. Deadline to apply for an emergency loan for losses related to this declaration is October 1, 2007.

Severe freeze which occurred on January 11, 2007 through January 17, 2007. Deadline to apply for an emergency loan related to this declaration is November 13, 2007.

For more loan information, contact the county office loan department.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for **which federal crop insurance is not available** and is produced for food or fiber. Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ producers must have or share in the risk of producing the crop
- ✓ producers must be in compliance with conservation provisions (filing form AD-1026)



- ✓ may not have a gross annual revenue greater than \$2 million in the prior year
- ✓ file a farm operating plan and supporting documents, with signature authorities
- ✓ file acreage reports by the applicable reporting deadline
- ✓ file a notice of loss timely (on form CCC-576)
- ✓ have an inspection and/or appraisal of the damaged crop, and
- ✓ file production records by the applicable deadline

later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date. For example, 2006 strawberry growers must file all of their 2006 production records no later than July 15, 2007.

- Report any changes to your farming operation, or gross income, as they occur.
- Annually pay the administrative fee in the county for the crops that you intend to receive NAP coverage on. The fee is \$100 per crop per county, with a maximum of \$300 per county for all crops in one county. The maximum a producer can pay is \$900 for all crops in all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee, by the closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits and be in compliance with other crop disaster program linkage requirements:

- Timely file accurate acreage reports and keep a record of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- **Note:** flower growers must file a complete flower inventory at the beginning of each month in order to be eligible for NAP benefits
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the disaster event, or as soon as a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, or other natural disaster condition.
- Timely file production records no

2008 NAP Application Closing Dates (non-insurable crops)

1/1/2007	2008 Citrus crops (Avocados, citrus crops, oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit)
8/1/2007	Fall planted seed crops (grain crops that are not insurable)
9/1/2007	Value Loss Crops (field flowers, aquaculture, christmas trees, etc)
12/1/2007	Honey
12/15/2007	Fruit & nut tree crops, almonds, strawberries, apricots, cherries, asparagus, caneberries, grapes, kiwi, mint, nectarines, olives, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, walnuts, etc)
12/15/2007	Forage Crops (Hay and Native pasture)
01/01/2008	2009 Citrus Crops
03/01/2008	2008 Annual spring planted crops (vegetables)

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Loan Deficiency Program

A reminder that we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. Be sure to complete and sign page 1 of the EZ form as soon as possible and certainly before you lose beneficial interest. Then, depending upon the crop, page 2, 3 or 4 is used to request an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. The 2007 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began on January 1, 2007. Producers with these commodities should complete and submit the CCC-633 EZ page 1 immediately for the 2007 year, prior to losing beneficial interest. The deadline to file a 2007 LDP for small grains and hay is March 31, 2008. The deadline to file an LDP for 2007 wool is January 31, 2008.

Farm Record Changes and Accurate Signature Authority

Please remember to report changes to your farm operation when they occur, including changes from individual land ownership to a revocable trust, members of entities that are added or deleted, etc. Due to recent auditing of FSA records, signature authority rules and accurate farm records and reporting, will be strictly enforced. Failure to report changes may result refund or ineligibility for program benefits.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Acreage reports are required in order to maintain your eligibility for certain Farm Service Agency programs. 2007 Reporting dates in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo counties are:

Small grains: April 30, 2007
Other crops: July 15, 2007

Acreage reports must be filed timely and accurately. Late-filed acreage reports may be requested for a fee and if disposition of the crop by an inspection can be made.

Payment Limitations

USDA payment and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility or payment limits. Failure to do so can result in ineligibility for payments for all years affected. Payment limitations vary by program. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses and ID numbers of their members.

2007 Direct & Countercyclical Program Deadline Change (DCP)

An extension has been granted to file a contract for the DCP until August 3, 2007. A late file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007, and before September 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved. Please remember that documents must be filed to verify correct signature authority.

Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

This act requires any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest other than a security interest in agricultural land to submit a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture no later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer, or held any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on February 1, 1979, to have submitted a report to the Secretary not later than August 1, 1979. Please contact the county office for form FSA-153 and more information related to this requirement.



Dates to Remember	
Apr 30	Crop Acreage Reports Small grains
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday FSA office closed
July 4	Independence Day Holiday FSA office closed
July 15	Acreage Reporting date all other crops except flowers
July 15	2006 Crop Production/NAP
Aug 1	COC nominee forms due
Aug 3	DCP application deadline

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