



August 2006

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

USDA Service Center

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

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Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

FSA County Committee

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

Advisors

Alicia Alvarez
Dominic Muzzi

Election Update

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election for local administrative areas (LAAs) 3 & 4 is closed. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by **Dec. 4, 2006.**

County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs and disaster payments.

The 2006 election calendar is as follows:

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is Dec. 4. ***Please do not forget to sign your ballot!***
- Ballots will be counted at the Farm Service Agency office at 9:00 am on December 6.
- Newly elected county committee members will begin their new term on Jan. 1, 2007.

For detailed information about FSA county committees, visit the county office or go online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

Security Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures help to protect against natural disasters, as well

as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To receive a copy, call the county office and we will mail one to you.

More information is available at <http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity>

Land for Sale

Producers and investors are encouraged to bookmark this Web site <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>. This site provides a national list of all inventory farms that are available for sale by the Farm Service Agency. These properties were acquired by the agency through mortgage defaults and oftentimes represent a good value. They may also represent an opportunity for beginning farmers to obtain a parcel of real estate and are initially targeted to beginning farmers for financing by the FSA.

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 rainfall & severe weather conditions which occurred on December 17, 2005 through April 26, 2006. Deadline to apply for an emergency loan for losses related to this declaration is

February 15, 2007.

Severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides, which occurred on March 29, 2006 to April 16, 2006. Deadline to apply for an emergency loan for losses related to this declaration is February 5, 2007.

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



Selected Interest Rates for August 2006	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.125%
Sugar Storage Facility	5.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.250%
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	10.000%

Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number. The toll free number **1-888-518-4983**, and is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During the first call to the new system borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the social security number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their zip code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number (PIN) for security purposes. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system. The system menu helps users access helpful information about the status of their account.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce finan-

cial 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
- file a farm operating plan and supporting documents, with signature authorities
- file acreage reports by the applicable reporting deadline
- file notice of loss timely
- have an appraisal or inspection of the damaged crop timely, and
- file production records by the applicable deadline

Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2007, 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.

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.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, or other natural disaster condition.
- Timely file production records no later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date. For example, 2006 strawberry growers must file all of the 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.

2007 NAP Application Closing Dates (non-insurable crops)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1/1/2006 | 2007 Citrus crops (Avocados, citrus crops, oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruit) |
| 8/1/2006 | Fall planted seed crops (grain crops that are not insurable) |
| 9/1/2006 | Value Loss Crops (field flowers, aquaculture, christmas trees, etc) |
| 12/1/2006 | Honey |
| 12/15/2006 | Fruit & nut tree crops, almonds, Strawberries, apricots, cherries, asparagus, caneberries, grapes, kiwi, mint, nectarines, olives, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, walnuts, etc) |
| 12/15/2006 | Forage Crops (Hay and Native pasture) |
| 1/1/2007 | 2008 Citrus Crops (see above) |
| 1/31/2007 | 2007 Apples |
| 03/1/2007 | 2007 Annual spring planted crops (vegetables, etc) |

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.

Wool and Small Grains Loan Deficiency Payment Forms CCC-633-EZ Reminder

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.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

The 2006 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began on January 1, 2006. Producers with these commodities should complete and submit the CCC-633 EZ page 1 immediately for the 2006 year, prior to losing beneficial interest.

Contact the county office for more information, or to request a form.

Farm Record Changes

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. Failure to report changes may result in ineligibility for program benefits.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 1	NAP Application Closing Date—flowers, aquaculture, value loss crops
Sept. 4	Labor Day Federal Holiday FSA office closed
Sept. 30	Final date for 2006 DCP contract revisions.
Nov. 3	County committee election ballots mailed.
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday FSA office closed
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 15	NAP Application Closing Date—Strawberries, fruit & nut tree crops, Hay & Forage & others

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