



November 2007

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA

Si necesit una explicacion in espanol por favor llamenos a la oficina

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

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

Minority Advisors

Alicia Alvarez
Dominic Muzzi

County Office Staff

Hong Clemens, PT
Pete Blanco, PT
Tonya Linares, PT
Vivian Soffa, CED

2007 County Committee Elections

It is FSA County Committee election time for local administrative area (LAA #2). This is the central part of Monterey County. Each LAA elects one regular and alternates to serve a 3-year term beginning on January 1st. Eligible producers who live and farm in LAA#2 may vote for the following candidates:

Betty Barrington, livestock producer
Frank LaMacchia, livestock producer

Election Timetable

November 2: 2007 Ballots are mailed
December 3: Deadline to return ballots
December 4: COC Election & Ballot count
January 1, 2008: New members take office

Ballots must be completed, *signed* and post-marked or returned to this office no later than December 3rd. Agriculture producers of legal voting age may vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A spouse of an eligible producer may also vote.

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: (1) producers must have or share in the risk of producing the crop; (2) producers must be in compliance with conservation provisions (filing form AD-1026); (3) producers may not have a gross annual revenue greater

than \$2 million in the prior year; (4) producers must file a farm operating plan and supporting documents, with signature authorities; (5) must file acreage reports by the applicable reporting deadline; (6) must file a notice of loss timely (on form CCC-576); (7) must have an inspection and/or appraisal of the damaged crop, and (8) must file production records by the applicable deadline.

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 requirements: (a) 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. (b) **Note:** flower growers and other value loss crops must file a complete flower inventory in the county office at the beginning of each month in order to be eligible for NAP benefits. (c) 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. (d) Timely file production records no later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date. For example, 2007 strawberry growers must file all of their 2007 production records no later than July 15, 2008. (e) Report any changes to your farming operation, or gross income, as they occur. (f) 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.

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)

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 in ineligibility and/or refunds of program benefits.

Acres Reporting Deadlines

Acres reports are required in order to maintain your eligibility for certain Farm Service Agency programs. 2008 Reporting dates in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo counties are:

Floriculture October 1, 2007

Small grains: April 30, 2008
Other crops: July 15, 2008

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

New Crop Disaster Programs

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed legislation that authorized approximately \$3 billion in agriculture aid for America's farming community.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

This program provides assistance to eligible livestock owners for feed losses on non-irrigated grazing land resulting from an eligible disaster condition between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Sign-up for the program began September 10, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits. Eligible livestock are livestock that are maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and were physically located in a disaster county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period. Monterey County's applicable disaster period is the 2007 crop year, due to freezing conditions between January 6, 2007 through January 19, 2007. Adult beef, dairy, beefalo, sheep, goats, equine, swine, poultry, elk, deer. Please contact the office to make an appointment for this program. The maximum payment limitation for this program is \$80,000.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

This program provides assistance for livestock lost between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 as a result of an eligible disaster event. A livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died, in an eligible county. Proof of livestock death directly related to the disaster must be provided. Sign-up for this program began September 10, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Contact the office for an appointment. The maximum payment limitation for this program is \$80,000.

2005/2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program.

This program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to

eligible crops in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up began October 15, 2007 and a deadline has not yet been established. Losses from eligible natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance in 2005, 2006, or 2007 if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Important Note:** Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35%. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. Participants must have been in compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions in the applicable crop year. A producer is ineligible to receive CDP payments if the FSA State Committee, FSA County Committee or an FSA Official determines that the producer committed, or attempted to commit fraud, or did not have an ownership share of the crop. To receive CDP benefits, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer was prevented from planting a crop; sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the expected production of the crop; or sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the value of value-loss crops. Production will be assigned for ineligible causes of loss, lack of adequate production records, the participant carries out practices that generally results in lower yields than the established historic yields, the participant has a contract to receive a guaranteed payment for all or a portion of the crop; a crop is late-planted, non-harvested acreage was not timely appraised, or other appropriate causes as determined by the Deputy Administrator of FSA. Prevented planted acreage will be considered separately from planted acreage of the same crop. Disaster payments for insured crops for prevented planted acreage shall not be made unless the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or FSA documentation indicates that the eligible participant received a prevented planting payment under either the NAP or RMA administered programs. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the

actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by the quantity loss. Additional information on quality losses and sign-up procedures will be forthcoming. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Due to staffing limitations, applications will be taken by appointment only. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please contact this office.

Emergency Loans

The following designations have been made for physical and production losses. Please contact a farm loan representative at 831-424-7377 ext. 112 for more information.

Monterey County. Losses caused by severe freeze, January 11-January 17, 2007. Deadline to apply: December 20, 2007.

Monterey, Santa Cruz Counties. Losses caused by freezing conditions January 12, 2007 – January 24, 2007. Deadline to apply: January 9, 2008.

Monterey County. Drought and various conditions October 15, 2006 and continuing. Deadline to apply: January 9, 2008.

Santa Cruz, San Mateo counties. Drought conditions from January 1, 2007 and continuing. Deadline to apply: March 31, 2008.



Retirement of Hong Clemens

After almost 20 years of service to the farmers and ranchers of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, FSA Program Technician Hong Clemens will retire at the end of this year. Hong initially began her FSA career in Fresno County and transferred to Monterey County in February of 1998. An open house honoring Hong for her dedicated service to farmers and ranchers will be held at the FSA Service Center on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.



FSA's 2007 National Compliance & Spot check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits ranchers and farmers, but maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency. As part of the 2007 Nat'l Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by random sampling. FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the operation. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the Agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for customers at home and abroad.



Dates to Remember	
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day-Office closed
Dec 3	Last Day to file COC ballots
Dec 4	FSA Open House 1-4pm
Dec 15	NAP Application deadline Strawberries, hay & other crops—see listing inside!
Dec 25	Christmas Day FSA Office Closed
Jan 1	New Year's Day FSA Office Closed
Jan 1	NAP Application deadline 2009 Citrus Crops

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