

SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS

July 2007

County Committee

Linda Neal (LAA 1)
Richard Hamilton (LAA 2)
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Craig Nakahara, Advisor

County Executive Director

Lynda Janne

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County Office Staff

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IMPORTANT DATES

8/1/07: Last day to submit nomination for COC election, LAA1 (Napa Valley)

8/1/07: Deadline to request farm division and/or combination for DCP farms

8/3/07: Final date to submit signatures on DCP contract to avoid \$100 penalty fee.

9/1/07: Deadline to apply for 2008 NAP coverage on forage crops, pasture, garbanzo beans

9/28/07: Last date County Office can accept signatures on DCP contract.

9/30/07: Deadline to apply for EQIP through NRCS

Coming Soon: Sign-Up for Crop & Livestock Disaster Programs

Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available on the internet at www.fsa.usda.gov, or can be obtained at any FSA county office.

DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) DEADLINE IS HERE

The deadline to enroll farms in the annual DCP was extended to August 3. Contracts that are lacking acceptable signatures or other required documentation (such as current cash leases, documents verifying signature authority, etc) after 8/3/07 will be assessed a \$100 penalty fee before approval can be made.

All contracts must be completely signed by applicable producers by September 30.

Since this is a statutory date, registers cannot be used for this deadline and we cannot take signatures after this date even though it falls on a Sunday. In other words, signatures dated after September 30 are invalid. A single missed signature, invalid signature, or a signature that does not meet signature requirements, will result in an ineligible contract.

COC NOMINATION DEADLINE 8/1

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in LAA 1 will be accepted through August 1, 2007.

LAA 1 includes the western portion of Napa county, bordered on the east by Butts Canyon Rd, south to Pope Valley Rd, Chiles & Pope Valley Rd, Lower Chiles Valley Rd, Hwy 128, Hwy 121, and Wooden Valley Rd.

FSA urges all producers to seriously consider running for a term on the County Committee. A nomination form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a farmer-candidate. The form includes a statement that the candidate agrees to serve if elected.

This office is in the process of updating eligibility files for ALL payment recipients. If you are eligible to receive payment out of this office and have not yet been contacted, *please call to review your file* with one of the staff.

Please be aware, no payments will be issued to any producer until their eligibility file has been updated.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For non-insurable crops, such as vineseed, sunflower, some bean crops, sudan for seed, native pasture, 5th year alfalfa, young orchards, etc, FSA offers assistance for producers suffering catastrophic losses through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops. All applications for coverage must be filed and the applicable service fees paid at the FSA office by the application closing date. (See box of “important dates” for upcoming deadlines). For coverage, you must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 if you are in multiple counties.

You should review and apply for coverage on all crops you intend to grow, and specify the intended use of that crop.

August 1, 2007 is the last date to request 2007 farm combination and/or divisions on a farm with DCP base acres.

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer’s responsibility to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation, including but not limited to:

- ✓ *Land ownership changes*
- ✓ *Adding or dropping a lease*
- ✓ *Entity changes*
- ✓ *Changes in your financial institution for direct deposit*

TENANTS should assure this office has the correct information for all landowners in the farming unit.

LANDOWNERS should notify this office immediately when ownership changes (such as establishing a revocable trust, or the death of a co-owner, etc)



AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

This act, signed into law 5/25/07, provides funds for disaster aid programs.

- ✓ **The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will provide benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses exceeding 35% from natural disasters in 2005 and 2006, and for 2007 crops if planted/prevented before 2/28/07. Producers must choose only one year to receive benefits.**

NOTE: Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

- ✓ **The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07.**
- ✓ **The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07 that resulted from natural disasters.**
- ✓ **The Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP) provides benefits to dairy producers for dairy production losses.**

For LAP, LIP, and DDAP, producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07 are eligible. Producers must select the year (05, 06, 07) for which they want to receive benefits. For a list of eligible counties by year, visit www.fsa.usda.gov and select California from the state office menu at the top of the page.

More information on these programs, and the Sign-Up dates (anticipated within a couple of months) will be announced after the Federal Regulations have been published.

FSA'S 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND SPOT CHECK REVIEW

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operation.

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 consumers at home and abroad.



The **USDA Customer Statement** is part of the USDA's eGovernment Initiative and brings to the farmer and rancher unprecedented online access to their business activities with USDA 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Customer Statement will put a whole range of USDA services and programs into a single report at the fingertips of agricultural producers. The Statement allows USDA customers to view:

- Their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs,
- Information on farm loans, and
- Conservation plan and land unit information

Access to the Customer Statement is available to all USDA customers. In order to insure personal identity, you must first register for a "USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account". This process is easy and starts online by creating a user ID and password and confirming your email. The final step requires visiting a local USDA Service Center to complete the eAuthentication process.

For an overview of the Customer Statement, see the "Customer Statement Guide for First Time Users" at <http://customerstatement.usda.gov/>



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Solano-Napa County Farm Service Agency
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**COUNTY FSA OFFICE HOURS: 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday
Closed on Holidays**

**Closed: September 3, Labor Day
October 8, Columbus Day**

The Solano-Napa County Committee (COC) regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the county FSA office. These are public meetings.

IMPORTANT WEB PAGES

USDA Homepage: www.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency: www.fsa.usda.gov

California State FSA Homepage: www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/

Risk Management Agency: www.rma.usda.gov

Natural Resource Conservation Service: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Solano County Ag Commissioner: www.solanocounty.com

Napa County Ag Commissioner:

<http://www.co.napa.ca.us/Gov/Departments/DeptDefault.asp?DID=26400>

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.