

SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS

June 2007

County Committee

Linda Neal (LAA 1)
Richard Hamilton (LAA 2)
Craig Gnos (LAA 3)
Craig Nakahara, Advisor

County Executive Director

Lynda Janne

Contact Numbers

707-678-1931 or 944-0622
FAX 707-678-5001

County Office Staff

Laura VanHoose, ext 106
Bonnie Nogales, ext 102
Shay Renschler, ext 100
FSA Field Rep
Bob Currey, ext 110

IMPORTANT DATES

7/15/07: Last day to timely report perennials and spring-seeded crops.

7/15/07: Last opportunity to enroll in CREP (Solano county)

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

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

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Under CREP, the North Central Valley producers can enter into 10- to 15-year contracts with CCC to convert cropland to native grasses, trees, and other conservation practices. In return, producers receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish eligible conservation practices.

Eligible land must be within the project area, meet the basic eligibility criteria for CRP, and be suitable to be devoted to a conservation practice. The land must have been planted to irrigated crops 4 of 6 years, 1996 through 2001, and be currently capable of being cropped. Annual payment rates are \$100/acre.

The CREP area encompasses only a portion of Solano county. If you would like more information on the program, contact this office to determine if you meet the eligibility requirements.

COC ELECTION NOMINATION OPENS JUNE 15

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA County Committees (COC) is important to all farmers and ranchers. COC members are critical to the day-to-day operation of FSA. They help run FSA farm programs at the local level. COC elections this year will be for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1.

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in LAA 1 will be accepted from June 15 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. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available on the internet at www.fsa.usda.gov, or can be obtained at any FSA county office.

Report of Acreages Planted/Grazed

The deadline to timely report spring-seeded crops, perennial crops, pasture, orchards is July 15. Several programs require acreage reports for all cropland be filed: the Direct & Counter-Cyclical program, the Loan Deficiency Program, and the Non-Insured Assistance Program.

**DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)
DEADLINE NEARS!**

The deadline to enroll farms in the annual DCP has been extended to August 3. **NOTE:** this deadline is also the final date to provide all required signatures on the contract.

Contracts that are lacking signatures or other required documentation (such as current cash leases) will be assessed a \$100 penalty fee before approval can be made.

Any farms with missing contract signatures or applicable leases as of September 28, 2007, are ineligible for DCP participation.



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.

When your NAP covered crop is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify this office by completing a Notice of Loss, form CCC-576, within 15 days of the date of the disaster occurrence, or the date damage to the crop becomes apparent to you. **Do not harvest or dispose of the crop until the Notice of Loss has been filed in the county office and a loss adjustor has had the opportunity to inspect the damaged crop.**

NOTE: *Crop losses are determined on a unit basis. A unit includes all the acreage of the crop in the county in which the producer has the same interest. You are required to provide your annual production on crops covered under NAP, and to provide the office with a report of planted acreage (or zero report). Failure to follow through with these requirements will affect the APH (actual production history) on which you are paid if you suffer a loss.*



ATTENTION

There is a potential for non-irrigated pasture loss payments for 2007 if you have NAP coverage. In order for you to be eligible for payment, this office must have on file the following:

- CCC-576, Notice of Loss
- CCC-578, Report of Acreage
- CCC-471, Certification of Income
- AD-1026, HELC/WC Certification
- CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan and accompanying documentation
- Copies of current leases

Contact this office for an appointment to complete the necessary forms.

Changes in Farming Operations

Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement. Any change to your farming operation must be reported to FSA when the change occurs, but no later than September 30 of the program year.

NRCS Announces Sept. 30 Deadline for 2008 EQIP Grant Conservation Plans

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides a great opportunity to install a variety of sustainable farming and ranching conservation practices to improve your vineyard, orchard, row crop, pasture and rangeland.

Conservation practice benefits include: reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, irrigation water savings, enhanced wildlife habitat, improved stream health and improved grazing lands health.

Signing up is easy, and the Napa County and Solano County NRCS staffs are happy to guide you through the process, and help you determine if EQIP is a good fit for the projects you're contemplating. If you decide to move ahead, NRCS will work with you this spring and summer to prepare plans and to work on any necessary permits. Your conservation plan then becomes a template for preparing a contract application that allows you to implement your project or projects over a period of 1 to several years. You are reimbursed for eligible costs at a 50 to 90% cost-share rate, depending on what you qualify for. Phill Blake, Napa NRCS District Conservationist, notes that this year's program awarded over \$330,000 in EQIP contracts to Napa County agricultural producers. According to Walt Cheechov, District Conservationist in Solano County, \$350,000 in contracts has been awarded to Solano producers.

A sampling of the many eligible conservation projects (N=Napa, S=Solano) includes but is not limited to:

- Cover crops – annual and/or perennial species (NS)
- Pipelines and ditches for erosion control (N)
- Grassed waterways (NS)
- Livestock watering system: troughs, tanks, pipelines (NS)
- Wildlife habitat enhancement (NS)
- Brush Management (N)
- Cross fencing for grazing management (NS)

- Pasture management (N)
- Planting streamside native trees & shrubs (NS)
- Irrigation for native plants & wildlife habitat (NS)
- Integrated pest management (NS)
- Farm hedgerows (NS)
- Sediment basins & other water quality measures (NS)
- Farm access road erosion control improvements (N)
- Pierce's Disease Riparian Mgmt (N)
- Streambank protection/stabilization (NS)
- Soil erosion control practices for Replanted (ECPA) Vineyards (N)
- Irrigation Systems (S)
- Tail-water return Systems (S)

For more info on EQIP or other NRCS services available in *Napa County* contact Phill Blake, Kelly Gin or Chip Bouril at (707) 252-4189 or email Phill Blake at phillip.blake@ca.usda.gov

In *Solano County*, contact Walt Cheechov, Sally Negroni, or Jim Schneider at (707) 678-1655 ext 3 or email Walt Cheechov at walt.cheechov@ca.usda.gov

REMEMBER, NRCS planning and consultative services are free, and don't obligate you to participate in USDA programs!



**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Solano-Napa County Farm Service Agency
1170 North Lincoln Street, Suite 109
Dixon, California 95620**

**COUNTY FSA OFFICE HOURS: 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday
Closed on Holidays
Closed: July 4, Independence 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.