

SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS

November 2006

County Committee
Craig Gnos
Linda Neal
Richard Hamilton
Jeanine Holdener

County Executive Director
Lynda Janne

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

County Office Staff
Laura Baker, ext 106
Bonnie Nogales, ext 100

FSA Field Rep
Bob Currey, ext 110

IMPORTANT DATES

12/1/06: Final date to purchase NAP coverage on honey for 2007

12/4/06: Deadline to return signed ballot for COC election, LAA3

12/15/06: Last day to purchase NAP coverage on orchard crops for 2007

1/31/07: Final date to apply for LDP on 2006 wool or pelts

3/1/07: Last day to purchase NAP coverage on vineseed, sunflower, beans, other non-insurable spring seeded crops

5/7/07: Deadline to apply for Emergency Loan due to winter rain & flooding and/or record setting July heat wave.

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) ELECTIONS

Nominees for LAA 3 are:

Tom Galindo
Craig Gnos
Jeanine Holdener

LAA 3: northeast section of Solano county, east of interstates 505 and 80 and north of Air Base Parkway and Hay Road.

PLEASE VOTE !!

Ballots have been mailed to known eligible voters of LAA 3 (description above). Farm owners, operators, tenants and share-croppers of legal voting age can vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Spouses may also be eligible to vote. If you do not receive a ballot and believe you should have,

please contact this office. Ballots must be returned to this office or postmarked by December 4, 2006.

PLEASE VOTE for one candidate only, and be sure to sign your ballot where indicated in order for your vote to count.



NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2006 has proven to be a rough year, with a multitude of adverse weather conditions affecting a variety of crops. Insurable crops can be protected from losses by purchasing crop insurance; however, many crops are non-insurable, such as vineseed, sunflower, some bean crops, sudan for seed, 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 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. For example, if you obtain coverage on native grass for grazing, the \$100 fee will also cover any rye annual for grazing, or mixed forage for grazing. However, if you have rye annual (or any other grass) for forage, that requires an additional \$100 fee.

When your NAP covered crop is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify this office by completing a Notice of Loss, 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.

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. For example, land owned by a producer is included in the same unit with land cash-leased by the producer.

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.

NOTE: *Forage seeding is insurable in Solano.*

EMERGENCY FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Because of physical and production losses caused by unprecedented rainfall 12/17/05 through 4/26/06, many counties in California have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans. Both Solano and Napa counties qualify.

Farmers have 8 months to apply for the loan to help cover part of their actual losses. To be eligible, they must:

- Have suffered at least a 30% loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere
- Have adequate security
- Have multi-peril crop insurance if available.

Applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, reflecting the exact dates and nature of the disaster and how it caused the loss or damage.

The authorization for FSA to accept emergency loan applications under this authorization expires on February 15, 2007.

In addition, Solano county is one of many receiving a disaster declaration because of losses caused by the record-setting heat wave during July 2006. The deadline for loan applications under this authorization is May 7, 2007.

2007 DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Sign-ups for the 2007 DCP began on Oct 1. Schedule an appointment now to enroll your farm and receive your advance payment.

For the 2007 crop year, producers will have the option to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the total direct payment. The total value of the direct payment does not change. Producers will receive the balance of the direct payment in the second installment.

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

About 99% of today's agricultural production depends on only 24 different domesticated plant species. Of those, rice, wheat and corn account for most of the world's caloric intake.

“SIGNED” DOCUMENTS

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY has become a targeted item of recent audits and reviews. To be considered “signed”, a document must be signed by the applicable producer’s authorized representative. Supporting documentation **MUST BE ON FILE** in this office. Lack of documentation constitutes an “unsigned” document. All funds resulting from “unsigned” documents are subject to repayment.

Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it’s critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

**Wishing you
a Wonderful & Safe
Holiday Season....**

**lynda
laura
bonnie
bob**

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program

Farmers in California may be eligible to participate in a pilot program that may help you, or producers you know, acquire farm land.

The program provides the seller of land a 10-year "prompt payment" guarantee of the sale to the beginning farmer or rancher (buyer). If the buyer does not pay an annual installment due on the contract, or pays only part of an installment, FSA provides the scheduled payment or the unpaid portion to the seller through an escrow agent. The guarantee is limited to the total of two annual installments and also covers the amount of unpaid taxes and insurance for a period of two years.

You can find out more about this program by calling the Farm Loan team in Yuba City, at 530-671-0850.

20th Convening **CA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE**

March 4 – 6, 2007
Monterey, CA

Conference topics include:
cultural practices, value-added processing,
specialty crops, expanding Farmers' Markets,
transitioning to organics, business and marketing
strategies and more.

To learn more about the conference visit
www.californiafarmconference.com

Community Outreach &
Assistance Partnership Program

“The Time is Ripe”

**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:

Thursday, November 23

Monday, December 25

Monday, January 1

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.