



Farm Service Agency



July 2006

Sonoma/Marin County News
USDA Service Center

Sonoma/Marin County FSA

1301 Redwood Way, 190
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-664-8593 (phone)
707-794-7902 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Cynthia Crane
Craig Jacobsen
Diane Starkey
Phil Dolcini
Richard Grossi

County Committee meets
The first Tuesday after
the first Monday of every
month

Staff

Lisa Velasquez
County Executive Director
Debbie Castle
Program Technician

Reminder for WOOL LDP's

If you have not completed Form CCC-633EZ, you should do so before you lose beneficial interest.

Requesting LDPs and loans has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ. Complete page 1 of the EZ form **before** losing beneficial interest. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period – before or after losing beneficial interest.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

MILC X Program

For those who have signed up, please turn in your production so we can pay you. There are still producers out there that have not signed up for the **MILC X Program**.
There is still Time!!!

Please contact Debbie Castle @ 664-8593.



FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you are having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.



| Selected Interest Rates for July 2006 | |
|---|-------|
| Farm Operating - Direct | 5.50% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 5.75% |
| Limited Resource | 5.00% |
| Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 4.00% |
| Emergency | 3.75% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 5.00% |
| Sugar Storage Facility | 5.25% |
| | |

If you have Internet access, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl/default.htm to learn more about FSA loans.



United States Department of Agriculture

CalAgrAbility

Promoting Success in Agriculture for People with Disabilities and Their Families

What is CalAgrAbility?

CalAgrAbility is part of a nationwide network of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that began through the 1990 Farm Bill. A partnership between the University of California Farm Safety Center (Cooperative Extension) and Easter Seals Superior California. A project that helps link farmers, agricultural workers, and ranchers with disabilities to vital assistance services.

Who does CalAgrAbility Serve?

Recognizing that many individuals with disabilities are a vital part of rural America, **CalAgrAbility** serves people with disabilities who work in agriculture including farmers, agricultural workers, and ranchers. The **CalAgrAbility** project serves persons with (but not limited to) the following disabilities or conditions:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hearing Impairment | Neuromuscular Disorder |
| Respiratory Condition | Life Threatening Illness |
| Arthritis | Visual Impairment |
| Back Injury | Cancer |
| Chronic Pain | Spinal Cord Injury |
| Amputation | Muscular Dystrophy |
| Multiple Sclerosis | Cardiac Problems |
| Post-Polio Syndrome | Cerebral Palsy |
| Stroke | Mental Disorders |
| Traumatic Injury | |

CalAgrAbility provides services throughout California.

University of California, Davis
1-800-477-6129

<http://calagrability.ucdavis.edu>

Easter Seals Superior California

1-888-877-3257 Ext: 117

www.easterseals-superiorca.org



**Un programa para Rancheros y
Trabajadores de la Agricultura**
1-800-877-3257 o 1-800-477-6129

Minority Farm Register

The USDA Minority Farm Register is a tool to promote equal access to USDA farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants, and other individuals with an agricultural interest.

Participants may receive information or be personally contacted through USDA outreach efforts. USDA programs include direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, as well as conservation, housing & rural business, and risk management.



Participation in the Register is voluntary. All minority persons involved in farming or ranching are encouraged to participate. The information you provide may be shared through the USDA Office of Outreach with other USDA-approved outreach partners such as community-based organizations, educational institutions, and other government agencies. If you are involved with farming or ranching and wish to be included in the Minority Farm Register, you are invited to complete our form on the Farm Services Agency (FSA) eForms Web site at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and submit it electronically if you have an eAuthentication account with USDA, or print it and mail it to:

Minority Farm Register
USDA Stop Code 0503
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0503

If you need more information or assistance, please call toll free the USDA Office of Outreach at 1-800-880-4183, or the Farm Service Agency, Office of Minority and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Assistance at 1-866-538-2610, or TTY 1-866-480-2824 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST.

FSA Kids

Have fun with Coloring Pages, Puzzles and Games, Fun Food Facts, Lets Get Cooking, Juegos en Español and More Fun Websites.

You can find this at www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids



NAP 2007 Closing Dates

There is a \$100 administrative fee for this program and is filed on a CCC-471, if you wish to apply for NAP in 2007, please provide your check and signed application prior to the posted closing date.

| Crop | Application Closing Dates |
|---|---------------------------|
| ForageCrops | 09/01/2006 |
| Value loss and controlled Environment crops | 09/01/2006 |
| Onions | 12/01/2006 |
| Honey | 12/01/2006 |
| Almond, Apricot, Asparagus, Avocados, Cranberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarine, Olives, Peach, Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Strawberries, Walnuts | 12/15/2006 |
| 2008 Citrus | 01/01/2007 |
| 2007 Apples | 01/31/2007 |



Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is called for. The reconstitution or recon is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

When combining different tracts into one farm unit, FSA simply adds each tract's base acreage to determine the base acreage for the newly constituted farm. If a tract is removed from a farm, such as when there is an operator or ownership change, the base acreage that is attributed to the tract is removed from the farm. In some cases, the base acreage could be distributed by different means. Visit your county office for more information.

The final date to request a 2006 reconstitution is Aug. 1st, 2006. If 2006 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2007, unless the payments are refunded.

Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income-producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization, or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent.

The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Additional information and application forms for youth project loans are available from the local FSA offices. These offices are usually listed in telephone directories under "U.S. Department of Agriculture." The applicant must submit completed plans and budgets signed by the project advisor along with the FSA application for loan assistance. Information on FSA can also be found on the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm Service Agency
 Sonoma-Marín County FSA Office
 1301 Redwood Way, Ste. 190
 Petaluma, CA 94954



| Dates to Remember | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sept. 4 th | Labor Day (Office will be Closed) |
| Sept 30 th | Final date for 2006 DCP contract revisions |
| Oct. 9 th | Columbus Day (Office will be Closed) |
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The U.S. 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, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.