



Farm Service Agency

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Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 3

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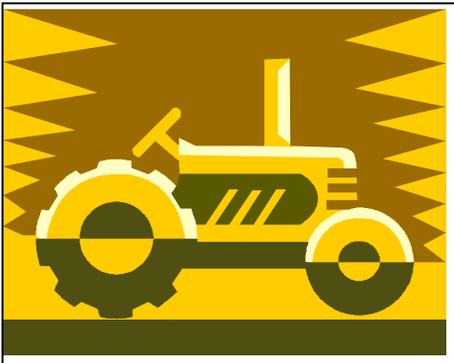
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DISASTER SIGNUP

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (**LCP**) and Livestock Indemnity Program (**LIP**) starting **September 10, 2007**. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (**CDP**) beginning **October 15, 2007**, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses or and LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers in **Sonoma and Marin** counties were declared secretarial disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, and are eligible. As are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 **must choose only one year to apply for benefits**. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **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.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Contact the FSA county office for more details.



2007 County Committee Board

- Cynthia Crane, Chair*
- Craig Jacobsen, Vice Chair*
- Diane Starkey, Member*
- Richard Grossi, Member*
- Phil Dolcini, Member*

Staff

- Lisa V. Velasquez, County Executive Director*
- Debbie Castle, Program Technician*

Office Hours M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm

County Committee meets the first Tuesday After the first Monday of every other month.

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COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the **mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007**. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

Prospective Voter Requirements - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as item number 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or

2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited!! - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you have any questions about your voter eligibility, please contact your county office staff.

FINAL DCP PAYMENTS FOR 2007

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.



LOAN AND LDP INFORMATION

Loans or LDPs are available for producers who share in the risk of producing crops. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest (maintain title, control of the crop) in the crop through the time of application. Producers who have contracted the commodity, sold directly off the field, or immediately fed the commodity should have filed a CCC-633EZ page 1 to maintain eligibility for an LDP. The CCC-633EZ page 1 needs be signed prior to harvest. Producers who deliver grain under a delayed pricing contract lose beneficial interest upon delivery in most cases.

Electronic Loan Deficiency Payments (eLDP) are available to producers who have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. The eLDP is an internet based service allowing producers to request certified LDPs on line and, in most cases receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

eLDP services provide greater flexibility to producers allowing them to minimize travel to and from county FSA offices. ELDPs are available 24 hours a day, seven days week, except during routine backup and maintenance periods.

Commodities harvested for other than grain (such as hay or silage) are also eligible for LDPs Applications should be made prior to feeding or selling. The maximum eligible quantity is based on actual production of grain for the farm. Producers that want to ensure the use of their own yield should request measurement service for farm stored commodities prior to feeding. If actual production is not available, the county committee will assign a yield based on three similar farms in your area. Yield for crops that sustained weather damage will be based on the insurance appraisal.

Interest rates vary monthly and are based on the month of approval. Rates are subject to change January 1.

Loan repayment options, include:

- * **repay the loan, principal plus interest**
- * **repay the loan at the market repayment rate**
- * **deliver the outstanding quantity to a designated Warehouse**

When commodities are under loan and used as collateral, they may not be moved without prior written consent from the county office.

SUCCESSION IN INTEREST

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is program eligible on the property.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

A revised CCC-509, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract, with all succession changes must be complete with all signatures by Sept. 30 for payments to be distributed.

Note: Changes that require a reconstitution must be reported to the county committee by Aug. 1 of the fiscal year in which the change occurred.

REPORTING LOSSES

If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

It's important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any

producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

NAP Deadlines Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to **1)** file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; **2)** timely file acreage reports; and **3)** keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

<u>NAP Crops</u>	<u>Closing Dates</u>
Fall planted garlic	10/01/2007
Honey	12/03/2007
Fruit – Nut Tree Crops :	12/15/2007
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pmegranates, Most strawberries, Walnuts.	

21st California Small Farm Conference

February 24-26, 2008 –Visalia, CA

For a full list of the topics planned for the conference, or to register for the conference, visit www.californiafarmconference.com.

Scholarships Available: request applications from this office and submit by **December 3, 2007**.



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	Dates To Remember
<p>Monday, October 1, 2007 Monday, October 8, 2007 Monday, October 15, 2007 Friday, November 2, 2007 Monday, November 12, 2007 Thursday, November 22, 2007 Monday, December 3, 2007 Monday, December 3, 2007 Monday, December 3, 2007 Wednesday, December 12, 2007</p>	<p>Last Day to purchase NAP policy for Garlic Crops Office Closed <i>Columbus Day</i> 2005/2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins Ballots Get Mailed Out Office Closed <i>Veterans Day</i> Office Closed <i>Thanksgiving Day!</i> Last Day to turn in Scholarship Applications for Calif. Small Farm Conf. Last Day to purchase NAP policy for Honey Crops Last Day to Return Ballots to County Office Last Day to purchase NAP policy for Nut Tree Crops</p>

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.