



December 2006

Tulare County News



Tulare County
USDA Service Center

Tulare County FSA
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559-732-2805 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/

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

County Committee
Charlie Pitigliano Jr
Tom Gruber
Mark Heuer

Gene Bennett, CED
Robert Pearson, FLM

COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gene Bennett, CED of Tulare County Farm Service Agency has announced that he will be retiring on January 3, 2007 after 40+ years of service to the agency. There will be a retirement dinner for him on January 13, 2007, for more information please contact Lorraine Wilson at (559) 734-8732 ext 105.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VACANCY ANNOUNCED

In connection with the retirement of CED, Gene Bennett, the Tulare County Committee is seeking a replacement and a job vacancy announcement with a closing deadline of January 29, 2007 has been posted. Job details can be found at <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov>. FSA is an equal opportunity employer.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The NAP program provides coverage for any commercial crops or other agricultural commodities grown for food or fiber or specifically included by statute for which catastrophic risk protection (CAT) under the Crop Insurance Act is not available.

The \$100 application fee must be paid by crop based on the sales closing dates listed below to be eligible to file a Notice of Loss, should a weather-related disaster occur in 2007.

Producers are to provide their actual production records to establish a proven yield. At least four years of previous production must be submitted at the time of the application. For each of the following years, you must submit production after harvest. **Producers must file an acreage report each year by the deadline date for that crop, which is April 30th for fall seeded crops and July 15th for all other crops.** All yields must be established prior to the disaster event. **In the event of a disaster, the producer must notify their local FSA office within 15 days of:**

- The occurrence of any natural disaster condition
- The final planting date if you are prevented from planting because of a natural disaster
- The date the damage to the crop or the loss of production becomes apparent

Crop Coverage Sales Closing Dates

Honey and Onions	12/01/2006
Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Avocados, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Stonefruit, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates, Olives, Rye grain, most strawberries and young walnuts	12/15/2006
Young Citrus Crops (2008 crop)	01/01/2007
Annuals and multi planted Crops	03/01/2007

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Farmers who suffered significant damage may be eligible for low interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency if they are unable to get financing from any other source. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent. In situations of production loss, eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed. For physical losses, eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds to prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost.

DISASTER #S2315

On June 15, 2006, the Secretary of Agriculture designated Tulare and Kings Counties as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by unprecedented rainfall and severe weather conditions that occurred from December 17, 2005, through April 26, 2006.

Loan applications will be accepted through February 15, 2007.

DISASTER #S2363

On August 21, 2006 the Secretary of Agriculture designated Tulare County as a primary disaster area and Kings County as a contiguous county due to damages and losses caused by unseasonable heat spell that occurred from May 1, 2006, through May 15, 2006. Loan applications will be accepted through April 23, 2007.

DISASTER #S2386

On September 7, 2006 the Secretary of Agriculture designated Tulare and Kings Counties primary disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by a record-setting heat wave that occurred from July 1, 2006, through July 1, 2006. Loan applications will be accepted through May 7, 2007.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Appointments are now being taken for 2007 DCP Program

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2007. Appointments are now being taken. Farms that are not enrolled or are missing signatures as of June 1, 2007 will be considered late filed and will be assessed a late file signup fee of \$100 per farm. Producers are reminded that signups are now taken annually for this program. Even if you signed up in 2006, you must sign a new contract for 2007.

To be eligible for payments under DCP, owners, tenants, landlords, operators and sharecroppers must:

1. Share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP.
2. Annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage.
3. Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land.
4. Comply with planting flexibility requirements.
5. Use the base acres for agricultural or related activities.
6. Protect all base acres from erosion, as well as providing weed control
7. Meet all other eligibility requirements.

The 2007 advance direct payment (22%) of the

total payment can be requested to be paid any-time after December 1, 2006. The first 35% advance counter cyclical payment for 2007 can be requested at the time of signup and will be issued in October 2007 provided there is a projected payment rate announced. The second 35% advance will be issued in February 2008, again provided there is a projected payment announced.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578 by the applicable final reporting date. For fall planted crops it is April 30th and spring planted crops it is July 15th.

Acreage reports to be considered timely filed for:

- prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the applicable crop;
- failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGE/DIRECT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the FSA office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers. It is important to report any changes such as the type of account, account number, routing number or bank merger to your FSA office to avoid any possible payment delays.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The County Committee election was held on December 7, 2006 for Local Administrative Area 3 (Tipton, Pixley, Earlimart, Alpaugh, Terra Bella, and Ducor) on November 3, 2006. Charlie Pitigliano Jr was re-elected for another 3 year term. He produces Almonds, Grapes,



Blackeye Peas and Alfalfa.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR ALL PROGRAMS

A recent review of county office records has revealed a need to verify that persons signing on behalf of others have a current and updated power of attorney. If legal papers (such as partnership agreements, corporation papers, trust agreements, etc) do not specifically state that one partner/member may sign on the behalf of the partnership/entity, new proof of signature authorization will be requested. This may be in the form of a power of attorney or some other legal document. Even if you have been allowed to sign in the past, you may be required to update your signature authority. Signature Authority applies to both the partnership/entity itself, as well as the members. Form FSA-211, Power of Attorney Form, may be requested from any FSA County Office or obtained online. This form must be witnessed in any FSA County Office or notarized and only authorizes action within the Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation or Federal Crop Insurance Corporation programs. Power of Attorney can be given for all actions or only for specific items. Without a single signature authority, all partners/members will be required to sign most documents. Please check your partnership/entity papers as soon as possible, to see if you need to update your authority.

FSA Kids 

AgVenture
HayNow!
Cooking Lessons
Coloring Pages
Fun Food Facts
Puzzles and Games

www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids

Dates to Remember	
December 25	Christmas Holiday, Office Closed
Jan. 1, 2007	Dales closing date for Citrus and Advocados
Jan. 1, 2007	New Years Day, Office Closed
Jan. 15, 2007	Martin Luther King Birthday, Office Closed

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