



January 2010
Issue 1

Inside this issue:

SURE Sign-up	1
COC Election Results	2
Emergency Loans Available	3

**Mendocino/Lake
County Committee
Members:**

Tim Strong

Nellie Dorn

Lawrence Mailliard

Stephanie Williamson

Dan Campbell

Betty Foster

Mendocino/Lake FSA
1252 Airport Park Blvd.,
Ste B-1
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-9225
(707) 468-5278 Fax

Office Hours: Mon-Fri
8:00am- 4:30pm

Farm Service Agency

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

The Mendocino/Lake County FSA will be taking appointments for SURE Sign-up. Please contact the office to make an appointment and to find out what documentation is needed for SURE program sign-up.

LDP Deadline on Wool and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 29, 2010, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for wool and unshorn pelts produced during the 2009 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the wool and pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

Please contact the FSA office for more information.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Larry Mailliard! Larry was elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which encompasses the South Coast and Anderson Valley areas on the county committee. Larry was elected to his 1st consecutive 3-year term.

Congratulations to Nellie Dorn! Nellie was elected to represent farmers from LAA 5 which includes South Lake County. Nellie was elected to her 1st consecutive 3-year term. The election results for Local Administrative Area #5 are:

Nellie Dorn — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Randy Sternberg — 1st alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Thank you to David Mostin and Walt Stornetta

I would like to thank David Mostin and Walt Stornetta for their many years of service on the FSA County Committee. The Farm Service Agency is one of the few Federal USDA office's that have a Committee that is elected by their peers to oversee the programs and staff in the local office. County Committee members take time away from their farms and ranches to attend meetings to make sure that the producers in Lake and Mendocino County are represented.

Both Dave and Walt provided insight and guidance to both the Committee and the staff. I appreciate their commitment to serving the Agriculture Producers in their Districts and in their Counties.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Biomass Crop Assistance (BCAP)

FSA is still accepting applications for certification from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP provides financial assistance for producers or collectors who own and deliver eligible biomass material to certified biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels.

Producers or collectors who deliver and sell these materials to qualified biomass conversion facilities can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Matching payment can not exceed \$45 per dry ton. Biomass material collectors are eligible to receive payments for two years.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility should contact their FSA county office regarding application. Note that some areas may announce sign-up periods.

An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a conversion facility, the facilities can begin accepting materials. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. A FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Renewable biomass;
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables;
- Cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL please call the FSA county office or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Loan Assistance Available

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's designation of an emergency in the state of California. Mendocino and Lake Counties have been named both primary and contiguous counties eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2009 and continuing and high temperatures, which occurred on May 15, 2009, through May 31, 2009.

Farmers in Mendocino and Lake Counties have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Some eligibility requirements include:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent 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, and
- Meet other eligibility criteria.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, which reflects the exact date(s) and nature of the designated disaster and how it caused the loss or damage. Crop insurance field reports may be a source for documenting losses directly related to the cited cause.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications under authorization #S2905 for Drought expires on May 17, 2010.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications under authorization #S2907 for High Temperatures expires on May 25, 2010.

Please contact your Farm Loan Team for more information.

**Mendocino/Lake County
Farm Service Agency
1252 Airport Park Blvd., Ste B-1
Ukiah, CA 95482**

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DAVIS, CA 95616
PERMIT #22

Mendocino/Lake County FSA Office Staff

County Executive Director

Katherine Delbar

Program Technicians

Lesalee Miles-Miller

Joleen Logan

Farm Loan Manger

Belle Davis

Farm Loan Team

Karri Bartolomei

Danya Hildebrand



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.