



March 2011

Modoc County FSA News

**Modoc County
USDA Service Center**

Modoc County FSA
802 W 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-4391
530-233-8869 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Darrell DePaul
Kathy Ackley
Ron Schluter

Advisor
Richard Blizzeard

Staff
Chris Lauppe – CED
Marlene Hamilton-PT
Katherine Lewis - FLM

The Modoc FSA County Committee is scheduled to meet the following dates in 2011: **May 5, July 7, Sept 8, Nov 10, and Dec 8.** Meeting dates are subject to change.



LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) AVAILABLE

Modoc County livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses due to severe winter storms in February and March 2011 are encouraged to contact the FSA office as soon as possible to report losses and receive additional information concerning the LIP program which may compensate producers for documented losses, in excess of normal mortality losses, to livestock including newborn losses attributed to these storms. Producers must file a LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM APPLICATION (form FSA-914), Part A and Part B, with the FSA office within 30 days of becoming aware of their losses. There are no late-filed provisions for LIP. Applications may be made by phone, fax, email, or in person to the county office director, Chris Lauppe. (office phone 233-4391; 24 hr. direct line with voicemail 233-8867; fax 233-8869; email: christopher.lauppe@ca.usda.gov.

Completion of the balance of the application and submission of documentation of herd numbers and losses will come later. Documentation of losses is an important requirement of this program. This can include daily journal records, photos with imprinted dates of dead livestock, vet records, and cow preg verification records. Written third party verification may also be required (form FSA-926).

DCP and ACRE Signup, Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program will continue through June 1, 2011.

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are available now. The remaining 78% of the DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments. Contact Marlene for additional info.

Acreage reports are required for either program and are due in the FSA office by July 15.

BCAP Update

Instructions for Biomass Conversion Facilities (BCFs) to become approved BCAP-certified facilities are now available from FSA. The actual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or agreement is similar to the first pilot phase program but new language addresses requirements of the new regulation. BCFs and interested producers can also watch the national website for further BCAP information at www.fsa.usda.gov under Energy Programs.

All BCFs must complete the MOU and submit it, along with any other documents or permits required by the notice. This is the first step in the BCAP process. Additional notices dealing with project area proposals and new procedure on the harvest and transportation portion or matching payment program are also scheduled to be released shortly. The new BCAP regulation has significant changes in required conservation plans, fair market value and eligible material. Currently there is no procedure for applications for woody biomass contracts. This may change, so be sure to follow the national website.

Loan Deficiency Payments for Wool and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

The LDP program will be available for 2011 and 2012. Producers must have page 1 of form CCC-633EZ on file with the FSA office prior to sale or loss of beneficial interest in wool or lambs. The 2010 program paid \$.29 per net pound for wool and \$1.99 per head for unshorn lambs sold for slaughter.

Producers interested in selling their sheep or wool through the Surprise Valley Wool/Lamb Pool should contact Florence/Ken Bordwell in Cedarville at 279-6291.

Livestock Forage Program

With storms in January, February, and March of 2011 drought conditions are not indicated in Modoc County. At this time the LFP that was offered for Modoc County for 2008, 2009, and 2010 is not authorized for 2011. Final payments to eligible producers for the authorized years will be completed soon. A recap of payments made to producers was recently mailed to recipients from our Kansas City, MO office. If you have questions, give Chris a call.

Conservation Loan Program

The new Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager in the Siskiyou County FSA Office at 530-842-6123.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager, for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Preventing Fraud

The FSA supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA assists RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office.

Emergency Loan Program

The authorization for FSA to accept Emergency loan applications under a Secretary of Agriculture designation of a drought emergency in 2010 in Siskiyou County expires May 2, 2011. Producers in contiguous counties, including Modoc, are eligible to apply if they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Contact Katherine Lewis for additional information.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops in all counties must be covered by crop insurance or NAP or be eligible for program waivers. A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county. (Modoc was a contiguous county in 2009)
- or
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Finality to be Brought to Claims of Discrimination

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack recently announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. Page three of this newsletter describes this process in greater detail. Further details are available at www.farmerclaims.gov. A brochure explaining details is available at the FSA office counter and is in Spanish and English.



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0085.11

Contact:
USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General West Announce Process to Resolve Discrimination Claims of Hispanic and Women Farmers

Obama Administration's Efforts Will Bring Finality to Longstanding Claims of Discrimination in USDA Program Delivery

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2011 – As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West today announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

"The Obama Administration has made it a priority to resolve all claims of past discrimination at USDA, and we are committed to closing this sad chapter in USDA's history," said Vilsack. "Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege past discrimination can now come forward to participate in a claims process in which they have the opportunity to receive compensation."

"Under the resolution announced today, USDA and Hispanic and women farmers will be able to move forward and focus on the future," said Tony West, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division of the Department of Justice. "The administrative process being established will give Hispanic and women farmers who believe they suffered discrimination the chance to have their claims heard."

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

The program announced today provides up to \$50,000 for each Hispanic or woman farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive a \$50,000 reward. Successful claimants are also eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Under Secretary Vilsack's leadership, USDA is addressing civil rights complaints that go back decades, and today's announcement is another major step towards achieving that goal. USDA is committed to resolving allegations of past discrimination and ushering in "a new era of civil rights" for the Department. In February 2010, the Secretary announced the *Pigford II* settlement with African American farmers, and in October 2010, he announced the *Keepseagle* settlement with Native American farmers. Meanwhile, Secretary Vilsack continues to advocate for resolution of all remaining claims of past discrimination against USDA.

Audio and video public service announcements in English and Spanish from Secretary Vilsack and downloadable print and web banner ads on the Hispanic and women farmer claims process are available at: http://www.usda.gov/PSAs_Print_and_WebBanner_Ads.xml.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).

Modoc County FSA Office
802 W 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101



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Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available from Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
May 30	Memorial Day - Office closed.
June 1	Final Date to apply for DCP/ACRE program.
July 15	Final Date for crop acreage report submission.

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."