



November 2009

San Benito-Santa Clara FSA News

USDA
San Benito-Santa Clara County Farm Service Agency

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www.fsa.usda.gov/CA

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

Due to staff shortage office may at times be closed. You MUST make an appointment to ensure you will be served.

County Committee
Wayne Shingai, LAA1
Nenette Corotto, LAA2
Joseph Gonzales, LAA3

Staff
Rebekah Reische, PT

Farm loan staff are headquartered in the Salinas Service Center (831) 424-7377 (phone)

NRCS is co-located in the Hollister Service Center, in Suite C. Dial extension 3 to reach NRCS staff.



Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers whose grazing acres were covered by crop insurance or NAP and suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. **The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP can not be approved.**

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

*** the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)

*** the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

*** native or improved permanent vegetative cover small grains or forage sorghum

planted specifically for grazing.

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Voting Begins for Committees

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or post-marked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Two candidates are running for the seat on the local committee to represent all of Santa Clara County:

Joseph F. Gonzales is nominated in LAA 3, Santa Clara County, to serve as a committee member. Mr. Gonzales resides in Santa Clara County and continues to produce grain, hay and a variety of row crops.

Ralph Santos Jr. is nominated in LAA 3, Santa Clara County, to serve as a committee member. Mr. Santos resides in Santa Clara County and continues to produce cherries and a variety of row crops.

Eligible voters in local administrative area LAA3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Farm Records Modifications

Farm Reconstitutions requests must be received in the FSA Office by June 1, 2010. If you are picking up new land or letting an old lease go, please contact the FSA Office as soon as possible. Planting flexibility allowed by some programs may make some farm combinations more beneficial to the operator, however, landowners must agree in writing for their land to be in combination with others.

2010 DCP Signup Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

DCP Signup is underway. All farms must be signed up by **June 1, 2010**. As soon as your fall seeded small grains are planted and your lease agreements are in place, call Rebekah for an appointment. If you sign up in November and December you can request your 22% advance payment in January.

The ACRE Option Average Crop Revenue Election

ACRE is an option for those producers who actually grow commodity crops and pulse crops. ACRE elections are irrevocable and all owners and operators on the farm must agree to an ACRE election. Contact the FSA Office as soon as you know what crops you are planting in 2010 so that FSA can assist you with some comparisons between DCP and ACRE.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE is the new crop disaster program. FSA will soon be accepting applications for 2008 crop losses. Eligible producers had to have purchased or timely "bought-in" coverage on insurable crops through private insurance and NAP crops with their FSA Office. For those of you who purchased crop insurance but did not file a FSA-578, Report of Acreage, please call today to make an appointment to report your 2008 crops planted and establish your farm records to get the process started.

Milk Producers Reminded of Program Requirements

Dairy producers participating in the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program are being reminded to select the month they wish production payments to begin.

If producers start month for fiscal year 2009 was never modified, then the production start month will remain in effect for this fiscal year and no action by the producer is necessary. Also, if producers have already designated a production start month for FY2010 and they do not wish to change it, no action is necessary.

Changes to the MILC start month must be submitted to the County Office on or before the 14th of the month originally selected as the start month or as the newly selected start month. The start month designation cannot be changed if the new month being selected has already begun or already passed.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for 2010 coverage on forage crops (native grasses, hay), honey and onion crops, is December 1, 2009. For tree & vine crops (apples, cherries, etc.), strawberries, caneberries and asparagus crops, is December 15, 2009. All other annuals (vegetables) are March 1, 2010. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE or LFP, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

NAP coverage for 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1,875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

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

Producers with 2009 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Happy

Holidays!

From

Your

United

States

Department

Of

Agriculture

Service

Center.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting EQIP applications for FY2010 cost-share practices. The application deadline is January 15, 2010.

Reminder: The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) can help farmers and ranchers with fencing, water development and improvement projects, vegetation management practices, etc. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals.

The cost-share provisions of EQIP typically reimburse you 50% of your cost, but limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for 75-90% cost-share. Total possible cost-share and incentive payments are \$300,000 per person.

You will need to establish your farm records, file a highly erodible land certification form, and complete Adjusted Gross Income certification forms.

For more information about Training Workshops, EQIP or any other cost-share programs contact NRCS directly at (831) 637-4360 extension 3.

Para más información acerca de nuestro(s) programas de conservación para tierra y agua, asistencia financiera para conservación o para información acerca de talleres y conferencias para agricultores y rancharos por favor llame a NRCS (831) 637-4360 y oprima 110. Se habla español.



Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification

Both FSA and NRCS programs require a 2010 certification of Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to be filed. Form CCC-926, AGI Statement, must be filed each year as the base years for which the individual or entity is making the certification changes each year. For 2010, individuals and entities will make their certification based on their 2006, 2007 and 2008 Federal Income Tax returns.



Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 72 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the high volume of applications. Applications are processed according to the date received. Contact Enyo Guevara at (831) 424-7377 for more details and assistance in applying.





Dates to Remember	
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
Dec.1	2010 NAP Forage deadline includes wheat, barley, oats for hay, silage or grazing
Dec.1	2010 NAP Honey, onion sales closing date
Dec. 10	2008 LFP & ELAP Deadline
Dec. 10	2009 ELAP Deadline (losses Jan 01- Sept 10, 2009)
Dec. 15	2010 NAP Fruit / Nut Tree Crops deadline
Dec. 25	Christmas – Office Closed
Jan 1	New Year’s Day – Office Closed
Jan 30, 2010	2009 LFP Deadline
Jan 30, 2010	2009 ELAP Deadline (losses from Sept 14 – Dec 31, 2009)

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.750%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility 3.00% to 3.625% depending on term	
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

The Hollister USDA Service Center is a drop-off location for:

- Canned Food for the Hungry**
- Coats for Kids**
- Toy’s for Tots**

Doing our part to help the less fortunate.

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