

FEBRUARY 2012

California

Santa Barbara-Ventura

County FSA Office

Ph: (805) 928-9269 Ex.2

Fax: (805) 928-9644

www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Santa Barbara-Ventura

County Staff:

County Executive Director:

Brenda Farias

Program Technicians:

Alex Hernandez

Daisy Lopez

Farm Loan Technician:

Tarry Hetzel

Farm Loan Manager:

Gary Troester

Farm Loan Officer Trainee:

Victor Manuel Hernandez

Ventura Office Hours:

1ST & 3RD Wed. of the month 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

*Located at the **USDA/RCD**

Building

3380 Somis Rd.

Somis, CA 93066

Note: Make an appointment. We will cancel office hours if we don't have any scheduled appointments.

Dates to Remember

NAP Signup Deadlines:

Annual crops:

March 1, 2012

Nursery crops:

May 1, 2012

Vegetable row crops:

August 1, 2012

Note: Contact our office for other crop application closing dates.

2012 DCP Enrollment

began:

January 23, 2012

2012 DCP Enrollment ends:

June 1, 2012

2010 SURE Sign up ends:

June 1, 2012

Get GovDelivery – Free News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continues through **June 1, 2012**. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial Disaster Declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.



The Santa Barbara/Ventura County FSA staff: From left to right: Daisy Lopez, Tarry Hetzel, Victor Manuel Hernandez, Alex Hernandez, Gary Troester, and Brenda Farias.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Contact your FSA County Office for deadlines and more information.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

An exception to the rule: spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.



1099-G

Producers who have received FSA payments should have received a CCC-1099-G, a report to the IRS about FSA payments made to producers the previous calendar year. The report is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page. Contact your local FSA office concerning 1099-G details and eAuthentication access.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment opened on Jan. 23, 2012 and closes on June 1, 2012. Call now for an appointment at the local office. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- 1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- 2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office including: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities) and changes in crop shares arrangements. **Note:** All changes must be made by Sept. 30, 2012.

Emergency Farm Loans Available

Disaster Declarations

The Secretary of Agriculture, congress, or state governor has declared major weather related disasters in the State of California, covering damages & losses for Primary Counties & Contiguous Counties.

Date of Declaration: 07/29/2011

Designation Code: S3142

Disaster Description: Freezing Temperatures

Final Date to Apply: 03/29/2012

Date of Declaration: 07/29/2011

To have qualifying losses, applicants must have suffered a severe physical or production loss directly related to the above cited disaster description. For more information contact the FSA farm loan team at (805) 928-9269 Ext. 2.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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 % of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov



Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.