



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

Solano-Napa County FSA Office

1170 N Lincoln St #109
Dixon CA 95620
707-678-1931 phone
707-678-5001 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

Hours

Monday - Friday
8am - 4:30pm

COC Scheduled Meeting

2nd Wednesdays at 1pm

County Committee

Tom Galindo LAA3
Chairperson
Linda Neal, LAA1
Vice Chairperson
Richard Hamilton, LAA2
Member
Craig Nakahara
Advisor

County Executive Director

Lynda Janne, ext 104
lynda.janne@ca.usda.gov

Staff

Laura VanHoose, ext 106
laura.vanhoose@ca.usda.gov
Bonita Nogales, ext 102
bonita.nogales@ca.usda.gov

County Committee Nominations: June 15 – August 1, 2012

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through August 1, 2012.

Producers who are residents in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=websroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office or postmarked by close of business on August 1, 2012. **Nominations are now being accepted for LAA3 of the Solano-Napa County Committee. LAA 3 is the Northeast section of Solano county, east of Interstates 505 and 80 and north of Air Base Parkway and Hay Rd.**

2010 SURE Sign-Up Deadline: June 1

Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) program for the 2010 crop year began Nov. 14, 2011, and will **end on June 1, 2012**. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm is eligible when either:

- A portion of the farm is located in a county, or a contiguous county, covered by a qualifying Secretarial disaster declaration (**does not apply for Napa or Solano for 2010**)
- An overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected production for the farm for that year.

For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

DCP Sign-Up Deadline: June 1 (Solano county only)

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2012. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign-up or visit any USDA Service Center to complete the 2012 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For more information on this or other programs, contact the nearest FSA office.

Spring/Permanent Crop Certification Deadline - July 15, 2012

July 15, 2012 is the final day for producers to certify spring planted crops (corn, sudan, etc.), permanent plantings (trees, vines, alfalfa, etc.), and native grass for the 2012 crop year. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and

**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.



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land use, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of USDA programs. If your crop certifications are not signed and date stamped in the office by July 15, 2012 you will be charged a late-filed fee.

Fees charged are as follows:

- \$30/farm plus \$16 for the 1st hr, with \$8/30 minutes thereafter (minimum of 1 hr), or
- \$15/farm plus \$16 for the 1st hr using digital imagery (permanent plantings), with \$8/30 minutes thereafter.

****Late Fee Exception**** If your crop is planted after July 15, 2012 then you have 15 calendar days from the date of planting to timely report your crop to avoid a late-filed fee.

As a reminder, participation in any of the following programs requires annual acreage reports to be on file: DCP/ACRE, SURE & NAP. If you participate in any of these programs or would like to have your crops certified for insurance purposes, please call 707-678-1931, ext 2 to schedule an appointment to ensure you have your acreage certifications completed in a timely manner.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs. The deadline for farms participating in DCP is June 1, 2012.

Non-Insured Assistance (NAP)

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide

production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year’s final acreage reporting date.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant to extend or renew a loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.5%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
May 28	Memorial Day, Federal Offices Closed
June 1	Deadline for DCP Contract Signatures
June 1	Farm Record Changes Deadline (DCP)
June 1	2010 SURE Sign up ends
June 15	COC Nomination Period Opens
July 4	Independence Day, Offices Closed
July 15	Deadline to certify 2012 spring-seeded and perennial acreage
July 15	Deadline to report 2011 NAP production
July 15	Deadline to report 2011 ACRE production
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
Aug. 1	Reconstitution Deadline (non-DCP)

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