



Sonoma-Marin County FSA News

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency **2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE)** program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

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.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, 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.

For more information call this office at 707-664-8593.

ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for **Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** is available to those producers who suffered losses in **2010** because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions.

For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred. See program details for other Notice of Loss deadlines. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

For more information call this office at 707-664-8593.

Assistance for Asparagus and Catfish Producers – Sept. 23 Deadline

Asparagus and catfish producers and those who shared in the risk of production for those agricultural products in **2009** may now be eligible for assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. **The deadline for application is September 23, 2010.** As authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, the TAA Program offers free technical training and compensation for producers of those crops now affected by foreign competition. TAA provides up to \$4,000 for development of an initial business plan and \$8,000 for development of a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers must provide proof of production in 2009 and one year prior and are subject to AGI eligibility limits.

Contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

USDA
Sonoma – Marin County FSA
1301 Redwood Wy Suite 190
Petaluma, CA 94954

707-664-8593 phone
707-794-7902 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

2010 Sonoma-Marin County Committee Members:

Craig Jacobsen, Chair
Richard Grossi, Vice Chair
Phil Dolcini, Member
Diane Starkey, Member
Jeff Jones, Member
Tito Sasaki, Minority Advisor

Lisa V. Velasquez,
County Executive Director
lisa.velasquez@ca.usda.gov

Karri Bartolomei
Farm Loan Officer
Located in Ukiah Office
707-468-9225

Sonoma-Marin County Staff:

Debbie Castle,
Program Technician

Cecilia Medina,
Program Technician



Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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 and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The 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. An 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 visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2010 Wool-Mohair-Unshorn Lambs/Pelts

January 31, 2011 is the deadline for filing your 2010 wool, mohair, and unshorn lambs (pelts) in the FSA County Office.

“If” you have not filed for your 2010 wool (sold or not) you need to come into the office by

January 31, 2011 COB, and complete page 4 of CCC-633EZ form.

“If” you have not filed for your 2010 unshorn lambs (pelts) you need to come into the office by January 31, 2011 and complete page 4 of CCC-633 EZ form, you must bring in your sales receipts for the sold unshorn lambs (pelts). Receipts must have name and address of seller and buyer, and show unshorn or woolled lambs.

Please be advised you must also file and certify your crop report and file/update your payment eligibility paperwork prior to any payments being issued. This can be done at the same time when filing your wool/mohair/unshorn lambs application.

For more information please ask for Debbie at 707-664-8593.

Milk Producers enrolled in MILC Program (Start Month Changes)

FSA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment.

The 2011 year for this program Begins October 1, 2010. MILC participants are reminded that changes may only be made

On or before the 14th of the month before the selected MILC production start-month.

Start Month changes can be requested by filing form CCC-580M on or before the 14th of the month before your selected start month.

A dairy operation cannot select a MILC production start-month for any month that:

- Has already begun,
- Has already ended; or
- Milk was not produced by the dairy operation.

Sign-up for the program began on Dec. 22, 2008, and extends through the conclusion of the program on Sept. 30, 2012.

Eligible dairy producers can apply for program benefits anytime during sign-up.

For more information or to check on what your 2010 start month was please ask for Debbie at 707-664-8593.

2011 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. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. Contact your nearest FSA office for all crop deadlines.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, 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 **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 and other natural causes.**

For more information and specific NAP crop deadlines, contact this office at 707-664-8593.

List of crops available.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths 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. Loan requirements are:

- US citizenship or legal resident alien status
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Compliance with FSA general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town (population 50,000 or less)
- Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Ability to conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.
- Demonstrate a capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

For more information please call Karri Bartolomei, Farm Loan Officer at 707-468-9225.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For more information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, just contact:

Karri Bartolomei, Farm Loan Officer
707-468-9225.

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- 2011 NAP Info & Deadlines
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- 2010 Wool/Mohair/Pelts reminder

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for As of August 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility- 7-Year	2.5%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 15	Signup for Durum Wheat Quality Program Ends
Sept. 23	TAA Asparagus / Catfish Program Deadline
Sept 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Sept 30	SURE Application Deadline
various	NAP Deadlines – See nearest FSA office for all crops list.
Dec 1	NAP-Forage Crops for grazing, haying, silage.
Dec 1	NAP-Honey, Onions
Dec 15	NAP-Fruit-Nut Tree Crops, Asparagus & Artichoke

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