



NEWSLETTER



June 2011
Issue No. 3

Sonoma- Marin FSA Office

1301 Redwood Way,
Suite 190
Petaluma, CA 94954

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

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

2010 Sonoma-Marin County Committee Members:	
	District
Richard Grossi, Chair	A
Craig Jacobsen, Member	B
Phil Dolcini, Vice Chair	C
Jeff Jones, Member	D
Diane Starkey, Member	E
Tito Sasaki, Minority Advisor	

County Office Staff:

Lisa V. Velasquez,
County Executive
Director

Debbie Castle
Program Technician

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

COC Election Nominations for District B

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

All producers in District B have been mailed their nomination forms in May; the boundaries for District B are East of Hwy 101, south of Rohnert Park Expressway, South of Roberts Road, Presley road, Sonoma Mtn. Rd #2, and also South of Trinity Road to the County line. North of the Golden Gate Bridge. If you did not receive a nomination form and you farm in District B, please contact the office so we can add you to our District B records.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

2010 ACRE Production Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on September 1, 2011, is **not** authorized.

The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the local FSA office.

Farm Loan Programs

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

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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

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

Crop Reporting-Deadline July 15, 2011

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and **Loan Deficiency Payments (Wool Producers included!!!!)**.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops (except small grains) is **July 15, 2011**.

NAP Certification

Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the

satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Late Filed Acreage Reports:

Late Filed Acreage reports are available for a flat fee of \$46.00. The fee is used to cover the cost of a field visit and administrative costs to file for past crop years reports. The acreage report can be filed provided physical evidence or documentation is provided proving that the crop existed. Please call the office for more details.

Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.

Contributions

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

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** for farms enrolled in specific programs.



This affects all crops
(including grass) for all
programs

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. Signups are going on now for crop year 2009, **the deadline for 2009 losses is July 30, 2011.**

Signups for 2010 will be announced at a later date.

Please call the office for an appt or more information.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

2011 USDA Food Drive, "Feds, Farmers, and Friends feed Families"

The USDA's F5 initiative – "Feds, Farmers, Friends Feed Families" is once again under way and will continue through August 31, 2011. USDA will be collecting food at the FSA Office and the NRCS Office both located at 1301 Redwood Way, Suites 190 and 170 and at The Rural Development Office in Santa Rosa at 777 Sonoma Avenue, E Street Annex (The RD location has limited public access). The SSCRCDC is also participating in the Petaluma USDA Office collection. The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 133 Aviation Bl, suite 110 will be collecting food again this year in support of our food drive as well as all Sonoma and Marin Starbucks with the exception of Healdsburg, Cloverdale and the grocery store locations. Starbucks will have collection baskets in each of their stores. The food collection barrels and baskets at all

participating locations will display the red shopping basket logo and the title, "Feds, Farmers, and Friends feed Families".

Fresh produce days: USDA will again collect Fresh produce as part of the food drive. Fresh produce will only be collected at our USDA Offices here in Petaluma on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please call (707) 664-8593 before dropping off fresh produce donations.

Food collected for this year's food drive will be distributed to the Marin Community Food Bank, the Redwood Empire Food Bank and several local Non-profits. Fresh produce will be donated to several local non-profits including: The Ceres Community Project, who prepares thousands of beautiful, delicious and organic meals for individuals and families facing cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

The Farm Service Agency will also have a booth at Rivertown Revival this year on July 30th. If you plan on attending the event Please stop by and say hello. We will have a barrel there to collect non-perishable donations.

Any donation to our food drive at any location is greatly appreciated.

Also anyone interested in participating in a "gleaning team" please contact the Farm Service Agency at (707) 664-8593.

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 the 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.

Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

Obtain Claims
Package through toll-
free Call Center:

1-888-508-4429 (toll
free)

- English /Spanish
- Mon-Fri 9am-8pm
- Voicemail messages can be left at any other time.

OR

Obtain Claims
Package through
Claims Process
Website:

www.farmerclaims.gov

Contacting the call
center or website is
strictly voluntary

Further information
available on the
website

Note: USDA will not
provide legal advice.

Sonoma County FSA Office
1301 Redwood Way Suite 190
Petaluma, CA 94954



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FSA Signature Policy

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.

There are exceptions to the rule, where 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.

The office will be closed the following dates:

Monday, July 4, 2011

Monday, Sept. 5, 2011

Monday, Oct. 10, 2011

Friday, Nov. 11, Thurs, Nov. 24, 2011

Monday, Dec. 26, 2011

Dates to Remember	
15 July	2011 Crop Reports for All Programs
30 July	2009 SURE (crop losses)
1 Aug	COC Nomination Due in County Office
1 Aug	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
1 Sept	2010 ACRE Production Cert. Deadline
1 Sept	Oats Hay/Silage NAP Deadline \$250.00
1 Sept	Grass Hay/Silage NAP Deadline \$250.00
1 Dec	Grass NAG-NAP Deadline \$250.00
*****	Call for other crops on NAP Deadlines

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