



October 2011

Stanislaus -Tuolumne County Farm Service Agency Office

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E
 Modesto, CA 95358
 Phone (209) 491-9320 ext 2
 Fax (209) 491-9331

Hours

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

County Committee (COC)

David Santos, Chairman
 Dave Wheeler, Vice Chair
 Stuart Crook, Member
 Larry Byrd, Member
 Dale Matney, 1st Alternate
 Mary Blake, 1st Alternate
 David Absher, 1st Alternate
 Anita Moran-Slicton, 1st Alternate
 Miguel Garcia, Advisor

Next COC Meeting:

December 8th, 2011

Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED
 Carmen Cardenas, PT
 Maria Juárez, PT
 Latisha Kahn, PT
 Joni Worley, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Suzie Wilson, State Specialist
 John Oosterman, FLM
 Joe Enos, FLO
 Deanna Martin, FLO
 Alma Jaquez, PT
 Lupe Mims, PT

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA office.

For a list of local offices, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



2012 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, where Federal crop insurance is not available. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops can choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who do not already have coverage may purchase insurance by the applicable closing dates as well. **2012 NAP application closing dates are as follows:**

Crops	Closing Date
Forage Crops/Hay/Native Rangeland (Intended use of Grazing & Forage, i.e. Oats, Wheat & Mixed Forage) Onions Honey	12/1/2011
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops (i.e. Kiwi, Cane berries) Strawberries	12/15/2011
2013 Avocados & Citrus	1/1/2012

As a reminder, producers who purchase NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Notify our office within 15 days of a qualifying loss or within 15 days of the loss being apparent.
- Provide proof of harvested production each year using acceptable methods, such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- **Timely file acreage reports as follows:**

Crops	Deadline Date
Bee Hives	1/2/2012
Fall / Winter planted crops (oats, wheat, etc.)	4/30/2012
Spring / Summer planted crops & native grass (corn, permanent plantings, etc.)	7/15/2012

If you would like more information regarding NAP coverage, please contact Joni at ext 124.

Accurately Report Your Crops!

Due to recent changes in crop reporting procedures, FSA is stressing to producers the importance of reporting crops timely and accurately. **To ensure that crops are reported correctly, we encourage producers to obtain the following information about each crop before reporting: crop type (predominance- see below), variety, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date & crop share percentages.**

The crop type is the most common error made when reporting commodities to our Agency. Statutes and regulations require a 90% predominance standard. This means the percentage of other grains is limited to 10% (for example, "oats" could not contain more than 10% of wild oats, wheat, etc).

County Office Staff have now been limited on the changes they are allowed to make after the initial reporting of crops, so it is imperative that crops are reported correctly the first time to ensure program eligibility. If you have any questions regarding crop reporting, please contact Maria at ext 118.

Do You Need a Farm Loan?

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 if you regularly borrow from FSA, direct and operating loans are currently available. Ask your lender (or loan staff) about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your 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 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

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.

2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) will soon be open for the 2010 Crop Year! SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred between Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2010. *As you may recall, this program took the place of the old Crop Disaster Program (CDP).* To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on **all** crops of economic significance in all counties; or, if crop insurance is not available, to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crops grown.

The following are conditions that *may* trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more to the total expected revenue from all crops produced on the farm
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county with a declared disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in a contiguous county. (Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production or crop quality losses)

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments. This ensures that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A fact sheet and backgrounder are available online and at the County Office. For more information, contact Joni at ext 124.

2012 DCP Signup

Because the 2012 DCP enrollment period has been formally changed to Jan. 2012, **please contact us as soon as your fall crops have been planted to complete your crop certifications and payment eligibility.**

Please remember you will need to supply our FSA office with the following, if applicable:

- new leases or deeds for property that has been added to your farming operation (which has eligible base acres)
- current rental agreements for property you will be enrolling (if existing agreements will expire before September 30, 2012)
- updated partnership papers/operating agreements if there have been changes to members and/or shares
- new bank account information (if the account has changed since last year or you are a new participant)

If you have any question regarding your current/future DCP contracts or eligibility, please contact Maria at ext 118 or Carmen at ext 107.

2012 ACRE Signup

The enrollment period for the 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) runs from Jan. 2012 – June 2012.

As an alternative to DCP, the ACRE program provides eligible producers a State-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year State Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average market price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year. **ACRE is based on yields & market prices, so if crop revenues are predicted to drop for the 2012 crop year (for your respective crops), this program may be beneficial.**

ACRE pays based on what is planted on the farm. Crops eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans) & rice.

Please contact Maria at ext 118 or Carmen at ext 107 for more information.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied you farm loan benefits 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.

Vote for County Committee!

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency County Office by close of business on **Dec. 5, 2011**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

This year, we are electing LAA #3 which covers Stanislaus County West of the San Joaquin River, South of West Main, Fulkerth, Hawkeye and Taylor Roads, including the towns of Grayson, Westley, Patterson, Crows Landing, Newman & most of Turlock (see map below).

Below is a chance to get to know the nominees:

Dale Matney: Born in Iowa and currently resides in Ceres, CA, where he runs a 600 cow dairy operation. Dale has been in the dairy business for the last 38 years as well as operating 120 acres of farm ground growing oats and corn. Dale served on the Milk Advisory Board for 19 years, is a part of Western United Dairymen and has been an alternate on the FSA County Committee since 2003. Through his experience, Dale understands and believes in the work the Committee does for this County.

Ajitpal Pannu: Born in India and completed high school/college in the United States. Ajitpal currently owns and operates a 125 acre almond orchard in Patterson. Ajitpal has participated in various Almond Board activities including the leadership program. He has a business and analysis background and believes that it is important that there is visibility for smaller/first generation farmers to have access to resources related to excellent farming practices. Ajitpal would like to be a part of the Committee to represent smaller/first generation farmers who immigrated to the US and acquired land. He believes that being involved in the Committee will help him influence local decisions and understand more about the functions and responsibilities of such committees and how it can benefit others around him.



**PLEASE MAKE A DIFFERENCE
AND VOTE!**

Election Dates to Remember:
Nov. 4, 2011 - Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters
Dec. 5, 2011 - Ballots must be received by the county office or post-marked by this date
Jan. 1, 2012 - The newly elected county committee member will take office

Bank Account Changes?

Policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account.

In order for payments to be made timely, please notify the FSA County Office if accounts have been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be significantly delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to account(s) or routing number(s).

e-Newsletters and e-Updates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch computer!

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

Click on the small **GET CONNECTED** icon to enroll in GovDelivery. Once enrolled, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail or text message. For more information contact your local FSA office. Watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail!

Farm Operation Changes

If you have bought, sold or transferred property, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure to report these changes to the office as soon as possible. Producers will be required to provide copies of leases, deeds or recorded land contracts for newly acquired land.

Along with land changes, please make sure to notify our office of any changes to entity members and/or signature authority for the operation. This would include the death of a member or shareholder, as well as if a trust has been created that holds interest in the farming operation.

It is important to keep all farming records current and accurate. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in or the structure of your operation, can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

If you have any questions regarding operation changes or would like to update your records, contact Latisha at ext 109.

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 County FSA Office
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste E.
 Modesto, CA 95358



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IRS Tax Information Consent Forms

During a recent review, FSA has found that many producers have not completed the requirement to file a CCC-927 or CCC-928 Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for 2009 or 2010 with the IRS. **Policy states that all producers must give consent to the IRS to share tax information in order to receive FSA or NRCS program benefits.**

The process of filing these forms has recently been simplified by the Agency. Producers who have not fulfilled this requirement will be receiving notification in the mail from the National Office to file a CCC-931. **If this form is not filed, producers who received program payments in 2009 and/or 2010 will be required to refund those benefits.**

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact Latisha at ext 109.

Important Dates to Remember

October	Final 2011 DCP & 2010 ACRE payments will be issued
November	2012 DCP & ACRE appointments begin
11/4/2011	COC Election ballots will be mailed to producers in LAA # 3
12/1/2011	NAP application deadline for 2012 coverage (forage crops, hay, native rangeland, honey & onions)
12/5/2011	COC Election ballots due back in the County Office or postmarked by this date
12/15/2011	NAP application deadline for 2012 coverage (fruit & nut tree crops)
1/2/2012	2012 bee hive certification deadline for NAP & ELAP
Now Open	2010 SURE, 2012 NAP & Loan Disaster Set-Aside Program
Continuous	MILC Program Signup Report losses for TAP within 90 days of loss ELAP hive certifications for honey bees Report losses for LIP within 30 days of loss Farm Loans - Direct, Operating & Guaranteed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."