



# NEWSLETTER



June 2011

## Sutter/Yuba/Nevada County FSA

1521 Butte House Rd.  
Suite A  
Yuba City, CA 95993

PH: 530-671-0850 x2  
FX: 530-673-5360

### Hours

Monday—Friday  
8:00 am—4:30 pm

### County Office Staff

#### D. Lance Carter

County Executive Director

#### Ehab El Liesey

Farm Loan Manager

Cathy Aguiar, FLOT

Kathy Bowman, CPT

Lynette Filter, PT

Cheryl Giyer, FLO

Margarita Gutierrez, PT

Janet Silva, PT

Angela Walker, PT

Karl Warmuth, PT

### County Committee

Debra Tarke, Chair

Stephen Waltz, Vice Chair

Tim Inderbitzen

John Oji

B. Chris Mckenzie

Darlene Moberg

### Advisor

Kulwant Johl

### Website

[www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

## 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

### Election Period

**June 15, 2011** – COC nomination period begins.

**Aug. 1, 2011** - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

**Nov. 4, 2011** – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

**Dec. 5, 2011** - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

**Jan. 2, 2012** - Newly elected COC members take office

## Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

## LAA's Open for 2011 Election

The following Local Administrative area's are open for the **2011** election:

**LAA 1- Sutter County.** The Western Sutter/Colusa County line north of Hwy 20, the northern Sutter/Butte county line for the northern portion of the county, the Yuba county line on the east, the Feather River on the south, the Sutter Bypass on the West up to Hwy 20. Hwy20 is the south boundary on the northern portion of the county.

**LAA 4 – Yuba County.** The North half of Yuba County with the Yuba River as the dividing line.

**LAA 6 – Nevada County.** All of Nevada County.

## Who Can Vote

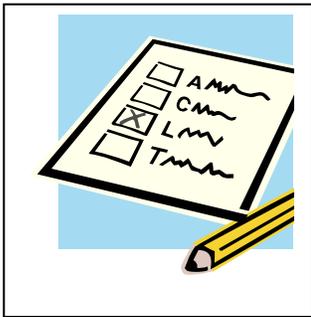
Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

## Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](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.



### NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

### NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3B. DATE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE	
9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.			
ETHNICITY		RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	
		GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEMS 3A & 3B The nominee must sign and date.

ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)

ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

**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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**NRCS Sutter/Yuba  
530-671-0850 ext. 101**

**NRCS Grass Valley  
530-272-3417**

## **LDP & MAL Programs**

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans for certain commodities.

Marketing loans provide interim financing for eligible producers, allowing them to store their crops at harvest (when prices tend to be low), then market their crops when prices rise. More information on the eLDP services and LDPs is available from local FSA Service Centers and FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, click on Price Support.

## **Crop Reporting**

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 FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

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 Spring seeded crops is **July 15, 2011.**

## **CRP & NAP Certification**

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, 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.

## **SURE PROGRAM**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster through Sept. 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Grazed acreage is not eligible for the NAP program. Crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

## **New County Executive Director**

The Sutter/Yuba/Nevada Counties FSA office has a new CED. My name is Lance Carter and I have worked for the FSA for about 5 years. I previously worked as a Program Technician in the Kern County Office and as a COT in numerous offices around California. I have been in the Yuba City office since September and so far have really enjoyed my time here. This office has a great staff and I look forward to continuing to serve the producers in Sutter, Yuba and Nevada Counties. If you haven't already done so, please stop by and say hello.



## Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers on non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster for crops which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

At the time of application, producers must pay a nonrefundable service fee for the eligible NAP crop by the application closing date. The cost for coverage is now \$250 per crop per producer with a \$750 cap per county, not to exceed \$1,875 per producer for all counties. Notice of loss: To be eligible for a NAP payment, producers must notify the FSA office with 15 calendar days after a disaster has affected the NAP crop and complete a CCC-576 Notice of Loss Form. Production must be submitted no later than July 15, 2011 for the 2010 crop year. If you have not previously submitted your 2010 crop production you must make an appointment with our office or you will not be eligible for benefits.

2012 Application	
NAP Crops	Closing Dates
All Vegetable Crops	Aug. 1, 2011
Fall Planted Seed Crops	Aug. 1, 2011
Garbanzo Beans	Aug. 1, 2011
Value Loss Crops (ie: cut flowers)	Sept. 1, 2011
Grazing Acreage & Forage/Hay crops	Dec. 1, 2011
Honey, Onions	Dec. 1, 2011
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Kiwis, Persimmons, Cherries, Mint, Olives, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Pistachios, Plums, Strawberries, & Walnuts	Dec. 15, 2011

Dates to Remember	
Jun 15	COC Nominations begin
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday-FSA office CLOSED
Jul 15	2010 NAP production reports DUE
Jul 15	Spring Seeded Acreage Report Deadline
Aug 1	COC Nomination Due in County Office
Aug 1	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
Sept 1	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline