



# NEWSLETTER



## January 2011 Tehama County

**Tehama FSA Office**  
2 Sutter St, Ste. C  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

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

**County Committee**  
David Lester-Chairman  
Jack Moser-Vice Chair  
Mike Andersen-Member  
Eduardo Curiel-Advisor

**County Executive Director**  
Darci Cullers

**Staff**  
Donna McKenna, PT  
Rebecca Tovey, PT

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Katherine Lewis

**Staff**  
Ed DeBauche, FLO  
Sandy Davis, FLO  
Jill Monson, PT

**Natural Resources  
Conservation Services**

**District Conservationalist**  
Larry Branham

**Range Specialist**  
Erik Ross

**Soil Conservationalist**  
Mindy Nicoletti

## Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

### SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, ALL crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

**Please call the Tehama FSA office to make an appointment.**

### County Committee Election Results

David Lester was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA#3 on the county committee. The election results are:

David Lester — re-elected to the county committee (COC)  
Pablo Nerey — 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC  
George Lindner — 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The 2011 COC organization is as follows:

David Lester – Chairman  
Jack Moser – Vice Chair  
Mike Andersen - Member

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

### NAP Production Reporting

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. Even if you did NOT suffer a loss, you need to report your 2010 production to the Tehama FSA office. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

### 2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 DCP/ACRE has begun and will continue through **June 1, 2011**. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to complete their 2011 DCP contract as soon as possible. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2010.

## New Crop Acreage Reporting

Producers who participate in FSA programs are required to file annually a complete and accurate acreage report. This year, FSA will be reporting crop certifications through a new web automated system. This new system requires some additional information for orchards. We will need the following:

- Number of trees in orchard
- Row width (in feet)
- Spacing of trees (in feet)
- Age of trees

Acreage reports must be filed timely. Fall seeded crop, including cereal grains, must be reported by **April 30, 2011**. Spring seeded and perennial crops must be reported by **July 15, 2011**. Failure to file timely will result in late fees, mandatory spot check of farm, and possible program ineligibility.

## Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded

of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

## Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.



## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm 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 the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

## 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.

## Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

## 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.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

## CA Small Farm Conference

Beginning and smaller farmers note that the 2011 California Small Farm Conference will be held this year March 6-8 in San Jose. For further information about workshops and a program schedule visit [www.californiafarmconference.com](http://www.californiafarmconference.com)

According to the website: "The California Small Farm Conference is the state's premier gathering of small farmers, agricultural students, farmers' market managers and others involved in the small farm industry. The three day educational conference includes day-long short courses and on-farm tours; focused workshops; engaging keynote addresses and numerous networking opportunities. Everything you need to plan a Big Future."

*As always, please feel free to contact the Tehama FSA office if you have any questions regarding this newsletter or our programs.*



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<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Jan. 10	2009 SURE Program sign up begins
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday-CLOSED
Feb. 8	Tehama COC Meeting (subject to change)
Feb. 21	Washington's Birthday-CLOSED
March 6-8	CA Small Farm Conference, San Jose
April 30	<b>DEADLINE</b> – Fall Seeded Crop Certification
June 1	<b>DEADLINE</b> – 2011 DCP/ACRE sign up
July 15	<b>DEADLINE</b> – Spring Seeded Crop Certification