

March 2008

Tulare County News



Tulare County USDA Service Center

Tulare County FSA
3530 W Orchard Ct.
Visalia CA 93277
559-734-8732 (phone)
559-732-2805 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/**

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

County Committee
Charlie Pitigliano, Jr.
Tom Gruber
Mark Heuer
Robert Sepeda, Advisor

County Committee meets
4th Thursday of the Month

Staff
Rebecca Garcia, CPT
Slade Childers, PT
Mitzi Lankford, PT
Angela Lasswell, PT
Yvonne Newman, PT
Danielle Parreira, PT
Lynn Ramires, PT
Lynn Rose, PT
Kelly Solis, PT
Lorraine Wilson, PT
Danny Jackson, FLO

Kaye Rydberg, CED
Robert Pearson, FLM



NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Disaster Eligibility Date Extended

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (2008Act). The 2008 Act amended the previous February 28, 2007 date and now allows for crops planted prior to December 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Similarly, under Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed/grazing losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to December 31, 2007.

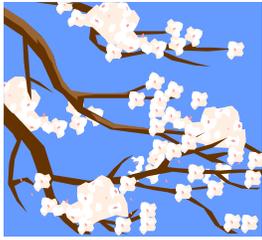
DDAP III Sign Up Resumes

Eligible dairy producers who suffered losses during 2005, 2006, or 2007 may now apply to receive benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP III) **beginning March 5**. The final rule published in the Federal Register on March 4 specifies that this newly reopened sign up period **ends on May 5, 2008**.

FSA began enrolling producers in DDAP III in late 2007. Then in early 2008 FSA temporarily halted sign up pending the completion of rulemaking. Based on public comments on the program elicited during this suspension, FSA made minor changes to the DDAP III rules.

The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers across the country for dairy production losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of natural disasters.

To be eligible, a producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the president or declared a natural disaster area by the secretary of agriculture between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. Further eligibility is possible if an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice was issued. For further information, contact our office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



Take the time to enjoy the diversity of Tulare County Agriculture!



We Are Still Taking Appointments For All Disaster Programs

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

The Tulare County office is still accepting appointments for CDP. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops. Sign-up for quantity losses began On October 15, 2007.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

FSA may accept information from producers about quality losses when they submit their applications for quantity losses. However, FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete after FSA announces the quality loss sign-up date and all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 can apply for benefits for every year and will be paid the highest dollar amount. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35%. For most crops, the calculation will compare the production amount to the higher of the county yield or the producer's actual production history. The amount of loss in excess of 35% will be eligible for quantity payments at 42% of the payment rate. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95% of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. No ending date has been announced for the signup.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or

incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides benefits for livestock losses that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 which were a direct result of a declared disaster.

To be eligible under LIP, the livestock must have been owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock died and have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

For more information about CDP, LCP and LIP, contact our FSA office or go online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under "Disaster Assistance Programs."

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time is here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. Producers enrolled in the 2008 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) should have already received or should expect their acreage reports in the mail. Please review your FSA-578's carefully as the acreage reported will be used for many FSA programs and can ultimately affect your payment.



Ed Schafer was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 28, 2008. Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive. For Secretary Schafer's complete background, visit "About USDA" at www.usda.gov.

Pictures Are Worth A Thousands Words

Sometimes pictures can be very helpful to show your disaster loss. It is not required to supply the FSA office with pictures, this is just a helpful bit of information we thought we would pass along. So maybe next time you notice damage to your crops after some heavy rain, hail, freeze, high winds etc., snap a picture of it and bring along to the FSA office when you apply for your loss.



Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebate offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.

RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: **1-800-424-9121**.

Partial Counter-Cyclical Payments for Cotton & Peanuts

USDA will soon begin issuing about \$315 million in partial 2007-crop-year counter-cyclical payments (CCPs) for producers with upland cotton and/or peanuts base acres enrolled in USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Program(DCP).

2008 New Farm Bill?

Many of you have asked about what changes the farm bill will bring. At this time we still do not have any information about the new farm bill.

We will send out letters/newsletters when we have information. In the mean time while you wait for the president to sign the new farm bill, these are some of the things you can do:

- Report your fall-seeded acreage (April 30 deadline)*
- Report any lease or ownership changes*
- Apply for CDP, LCP, LIP*

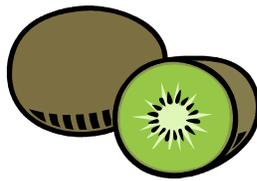
The 2002 Farm Bill authorizes preliminary partial payments for the 2007 crop to be made six months after the start of the marketing year, which began on Aug. 1, 2007, for these commodities. Preliminary payments must be refunded if full-year price calculations result in a lower payment rate.

USDA estimates producers with enrolled upland cotton and peanuts base acres will receive \$300 million and \$15 million, respectively, in partial CCPs. The 2007-crop year projected partial payment rates, equal to 40 percent of the projected amount, are \$0.0309 per pound for cotton and \$7.60 per ton for peanuts.

Overpayments to producers can be repaid to USDA, or the computer system will automatically deduct any unearned amount from a producer's future payments.

No Partial Counter-Cyclical Payments for Grains & Oilseeds

Based on supply/demand and price projections from USDA's World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, producers of crops **other than** cotton and peanuts, will not receive a second partial counter-cyclical payment. When effective commodity price projections are equal to or more than their respective target prices; the commodities do **not** qualify for counter-cyclical payments.



Dates to Remember

April 30	Acreage Reporting deadline-fall seeded grain crops
May 26	Memorial Day-Office Closed
July 4	Independence Day-Office Closed
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline-All other crops

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www.fsa.usda.gov/

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