

NEWS RELEASE

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NAP INSURANCE APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 1 *Producers May Apply for Spring, Fall Annually Planted Crops*

(DAVIS, CA) – Jan. 18, 2008 – Producers in need of insurance coverage on their Spring plantings of most row crops covered under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) have until March 1 to apply. This NAP deadline applies to those crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not regularly available, said John Smythe, State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in California (FSA).

"Crop insurance is an important risk management tool for producers, but it's not available for all crops. That's why NAP is so important," said Smythe.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs because of natural disasters.

"Producers must apply for coverage before disaster strikes," said Smythe. "Like regular crop insurance, once an application period closes, the opportunity to obtain coverage is gone."

The March 1 NAP application deadline means that the application must be filed and service fees paid by that date for those 2008 annual row crops for which standard crop insurance is not available. These are primarily annual planted vegetable crops such as squash and carrots. Note that apple producers have a fast-approaching deadline of January 31 to apply for NAP coverage. NAP deadlines for some other crops have already passed.

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NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$100 per crop, per producer with a \$300 cap per county. Out-of-pocket expenses are capped at \$900 for any producer, even if production occurs in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

Application closing dates vary by crop, and producers should contact their County FSA office for details. For a listing of county FSA offices or more information on NAP and other disaster assistance programs visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/ca .

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