

February 2014



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## Butte County FSA Updates

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### Butte County FSA Office    **County Committee Election Results**

150 Chuck Yeager Way  
Suite D  
Oroville, CA 95965

**County Executive Director:**  
Billy Merritt Jr.

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Shaleen K. Hogan  
530-527-3013  
[shaleen.hogan@ca.usda.gov](mailto:shaleen.hogan@ca.usda.gov)

**Program Technicians:**  
Shan Bertapelle  
Teresa Blackson  
Brenda Richter

**Next County Committee Meeting:** February 19, 2014  
at 10:00 am

Butte County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Robert Peacher of Chico was elected to represent LAA-2 and John J. Nock of Chico will serve as the first alternate.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on February 18, 2014, and join the existing committee.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact your local FSA Office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Butte County FSA office to file an accurate crop

certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Butte County:

**March 15, 2014:** Fall Alfalfa Seed, Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Fall Barley, Cherries, Figs, Nectarines, Spring Oats (Planted 10/1-2/15), Olives, Peaches, Pears, Pecans, Plums, Prunes, Walnuts, Wheat (Planted 11/1-2/15)

**May 15, 2014:** Grapes, Spring Oats (Planted 3/1-4/20)

**June 15, 2014:** Forage **Seeding** (the acreage reporting date applies to perennial forage crops for the year the crop is **initially** seeded.)

**July 15, 2014:** Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Oats (Planted 4/21-5/31), Potatoes (In Butte County), Sugar Beets (Planted 5/1-6/30), Wheat (Planted 3/6-5/31)

**September 15, 2014:** Strawberries (Planted 6/15-8/15)

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

\* If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

\* If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

\* If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or **15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.**

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Butte County FSA office at 530-534-0112.

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## **BUTTE COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS**

On January 24, 2014, Butte County was declared a primary disaster area due to extreme drought. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum

amount of \$500,000.

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## **LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## **FSA ANNOUNCES THE RESUMPTION OF 2013 CROP COMMODITY LOAN DISBURSEMENTS**

The Farm Service Agency has resumed processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans. Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended Oct. 1, 2013, to make changes necessary to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequester.

The commodity loan programs provide interim financing to producers for agricultural commodities stored after harvest and then sold throughout the year. Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities now will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

During the period that loan-making was suspended, producers were still able to submit loan applications to their county FSA offices, marketing associations and loan servicing agents. The processing and disbursement of these applications will begin immediately.

For further information about commodity marketing loans, farmers may contact their local FSA office or go online to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## **Selected Interest Rates for February 2014**

90-Day Treasury Bill — .125%

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 2.00%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 4.25%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%

Emergency Loans — 3.00%

Farm Storage Facility Loans — (7 years) 2.375%

Sugar Storage Facility Loans — 3.375%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present — 1.125%

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## Dates to Remember

Feb. 17 Washington's Birthday, Federal Offices Closed

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