

July 2013



Fresno County FSA Updates

Fresno County FSA Office

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Chantal Haun, Loan Officer
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Nangpay Vang, Chief Program
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Program Technicians:
Wanda Medina,
Chris San Nicolas
Annie Lee
Valarie Garcia

County Committee:
Jean Errotabere, Chairman
Richard Carstens, Vice Chair
Carl Buxman

Will Scott Jr., Advisor
May Thou, Advisor

Executive Director
Russ Friend

Crop Reporting Deadlines

Fresno FSA office would like to remind all producers of the following acreage reporting deadlines:

Honey - January 2
Citrus, Blueberries, Avocados - January 15
Strawberries planted between 8/16-11/15 - January 15
Fall and Spring seeded Wheat - March 15
Fall seeded Barley and Oats - March 15
Alfalfa seed, nuts and stone fruit - March 15
Grapes and table grapes - May 15
Forage seeding - June 15
Spring Alfalfa seed, Corn, Cotton, Rice, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Sorghum, Onions Safflower, melons, Spring seeded Barley or Oats and all other crops - July 15
Raisins - July 31
Native Pasture - Dec. 15

Acreage reporting is important. 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.

Please send Fresno FSA your crop map with planting dates, crop type, (example - Pima or Upland cotton) intended use, (example - corn for silage), spacing on trees and vines. You may mail your crop map to the Fresno FSA office, or email it to Annie.Lee@ca.usda.gov

Direct and Counter Cyclic Program (DCP) Signup Deadline August 2, 2013

DCP participants are reminded that August 2, 2013 is the deadline for enrolling in the 2013 DCP program. Contact the Fresno FSA office if you have questions.

Emergency Loans

Several disaster designations have been declared in many of California's counties based on damages and losses caused by drought from January 1, 2012 and continuing. As a result Fresno County family farmers could be eligible for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans. Eligible applicants with qualifying PRODUCTION LOSSES or PHYSICAL LOSSES may apply for the EM loan program. Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) is also available to borrowers with Farm Loan Program loans who suffered losses as a result of the natural disaster. Eligibility requirements for the EM loan program include: have suffered at least a 30% loss of normal production due to the natural disaster above, must be able to repay the loan and any other loans, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere, have adequate security, have multi-peril crop insurance (if available), and meet other eligible criteria. Loan approval will be contingent upon the availability of funds. The Fresno FSA farm loan team is currently accepting applications; contact Fresno FSA at (559) 276-7494 ext. 2 for the deadline to apply for your specific designation.

Banking Changes

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payments will be delayed. Payments are electronically deposited into your bank account, so if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there will be problems. In order to receive timely payments, you must notify the Fresno FSA office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the Fresno FSA office promptly to avoid payment delay.

2013 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.

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 or farm in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) that is holding the election. This year, the election is for farmers and ranchers who live or operate west of Highway 99 and east of the Fresno slough (Local Administrative Area 2)

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.

COC 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_committeeelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).