

September 2013



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## Fresno County Farm Service Agency Updates

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### Fresno County FSA

4625 W Jennifer Ave # 109  
Fresno, CA 93722

**Phone:** 559-276-7494  
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**Program Technicians:**

Wanda Medina  
Chris San Nicolas  
Annie Lee  
Valarie Garcia

**Chief Program Technician:**

Nangpay Vang

**Farm Loan Manager:**

LaVon Treasure

**Farm Loan Officer:**

Chantal Haun

**Farm Loan Technician:**

Phoua Yang

**County Committee:**

Jean Errotabere  
Richard Carstens

### 2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. 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 diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA-2) on Nov. 4, 2013. LAA-2 covers farms and ranches located west of State Highway 99 and east of the Fresno Slough. The candidates for this year are: Will Scott Jr., Richard Carstens, Shavinder Brar and Earl O. Boyajian. The last day to return completed ballots to the Fresno FSA office is Dec. 2, 2013.

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### NAP Loss Filing and Application Deadlines

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including

Carl Buxman

**Advisors:**

Will Scott Jr.  
MayThao

**The next scheduled County Committee meeting is December 5th, 9AM at the Fresno County FSA office.**

County Executive Director:  
Russ Friend

grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final crop planting date.

**Upcomming NAP application closing dates are:**

Garlic - **October 1**

Forage crops, native pasture, honey and onions - **December 1**

Asparagus, Pomegranates, Persimmons, Cherries,

Cane Berries and Strawberries - **December 15**

**Contact the Fresno FSA Office if you have any questions about NAP.**

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## Foreign Holders of US Ag Land

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. Contact FSA for more information.

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## Preventing Fraud

FSA supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA continues to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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## Succession In Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

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## FSA Emergency Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information, applications and closing dates for the loan programs described are available from the Fresno County FSA loan team .

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