

November 2013



Fresno County FSA Updates

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Fresno County FSA Office

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Farm Program Team:

Nangpay Vang - CPT
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Annie Lee
Valarie Garcia

Farm Loan Team:

La Von Treasure, Loan Mgr.
Phone: 209-722-4119

Chantal Haun, Loan Officer
Phoua Yang, Loan Technician

County Committee:

Jean Errotabere, Chair
Richard Carstens, Vice Chair
Carl Buxman, member
Will Scott Jr., Advisor
May Thao, Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: December 5, 2013

County Committee Election

Eligible voters in Local Administration Area 2 (LAA-2) will receive ballots for this year's County Committee Election. LAA-2 includes farmers and ranchers who live west of Highway 99 and east of the Fresno slough in Fresno County. **Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters during the first week of November, and must be returned to the Fresno County FSA office by December 2, 2013.**

Candidates for office are:

Will Scott Jr.
Richard A. Carstens
Shavinder K. Brar
Earl O. Boyajian

Remember to vote for the one candidate of your choice and return your ballot to the Fresno FSA office by December 2, 2013.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest and acreage reporting requirements and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit

9:00 AM

Executive Director:
Russ Friend

Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. If you have questions about Marketing Assistance Loans, please contact Chris San Nicolas at the Fresno FSA office.

FSA Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact Farm Loan Officer Chantal Haun in the Fresno County FSA office.

Crop Reporting Deadlines

Producers are reminded that the following crop reporting deadlines are near:

Native Pasture - December 15, 2013

Honey - January 2, 2014

Citrus - January 15, 2014

If you have questions, please contact the Fresno FSA office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application deadlines

NAP crop insurance coverage is available for crops of bearing age that are not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides coverage for eligible crops suffering a production loss in excess of 50% due to an eligible natural disaster, such as freeze. The next application closing dates are:

Native Pasture - December 1, 2013

Honey - December 1, 2013

Fruit and Nut crops that are of full bearing age and not insurable by Federal Crop Insurance in Fresno County, such as Persimmons, Pomegranates, Kiwi, Cane berries etc. - December 15, 2013.

If you have questions, please contact the Fresno FSA office.

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).