



USDA Farm Service Agency Information

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GOVDELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden. Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>

FRESNO COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

Fresno County was declared a primary disaster county due to drought and

Valarie Garcia
Lyanne Mendoza
Jeff Sledd

heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Next County Committee Meeting: June 12, 2014 9 AM

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

County Executive Director
Russ L. Friend

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.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact the Fresno County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on native pasture due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land. Fresno County livestock producers are eligible for drought assistance for crop year 2012, 2013 and 2014. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses are reminded that the signup deadline for the LFP program is January 30, 2015. Please contact the Fresno County FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll in the LFP program.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to the Fresno County FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law (losses due to coyotes are not covered). Signup deadline for this program is January 30, 2015.

For more information, livestock producers can review the LFP, ELAP and LIP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with the Fresno County FSA office to apply for these programs

ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact the Fresno County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Fresno County:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| January 2: | Honey |
| January 15: | Citrus, Blueberries and Avocados |
| March 15: | Alfalfa Seed, Nut Crops, Fruit Tree Corps, Fall Seeded Grain Crops |
| May 15: | Table Grapes and Wine or Juice Grapes |

July 15: Vegetables, Melons, Onions, Tomatoes, Cotton, Spring planted Alfalfa Seed,
Corn, Grain Sorghum, Safflower, Rice, Dry Beans and any crop not reported earlier

July 31: Raisins

December 15: Perennial Forage

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 Fresno County FSA office.

Youth Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Interested individuals should contact the Fresno County FSA office for more information.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) 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 who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact Fresno County FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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).