

June 2014



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Fresno County FSA Updates

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Fresno County FSA Office

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Farm Loan Team

LaVon Treasure, Loan Manager
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Phoua Yang, Loan Technician

Farm Program Team:

Nangpay Vang, Chief PT
Wanda Medina
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Annie Lee
Valarie Garcia
Lyanne Mendoza
Jeff Sledd

Next County Committee Meeting: July 10, 2014 9 AM

County Executive Director
Russ L. Friend

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

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 18 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. Mortality means the tree, bush or vine died above and below ground as a result of a qualifying natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Applicants who suffered eligible tree, bush and vine losses after September 30, 2011, through the end of the 2014 calendar year must provide an application and supporting documentation to FSA by the later of January 31, 2015, or 90 calendar days after the disaster event or date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

Applicants who suffered eligible tree, bush, and vine losses on or after January 1, 2015 must provide an application and supporting documentation to FSA within 90 calendar days of each disaster event or date when

the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent to the producer.

2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 AND 2013 AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicates may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the AGI limitation of \$500,000 of nonfarm income, \$750,000 of farm income, \$1 million of conservation program benefits or the \$1 million total AGI, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the applicable limitation. The California FSA State Office will begin notifying producers selected for review ASAP. If you have any questions about the review process or determination, please contact the California FSA State Office at 530-795-5520. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office. Adverse determinations become administratively final if not timely appealed and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

FRESNO COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

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

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.

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

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)