

November 2012



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Humboldt/Del Norte County Farm Service Agency

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time. [Click here](#) if you would like to add or modify your subscription.

Humboldt/ Del Norte County FSA Office

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Farm Loan Manager

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2013 NAP Coverage Deadlines

Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) applications vary according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the NAP filing dates coming up soon for specific crops in your region.

County Committee Voting Begins - Ballots Due Dec. 3

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 3, 2012. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 3, 2012.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Richard Wetherell is nominated in LAA 5, Del Norte County, to serve as a committee member. Wetherell resides in Fort Dick.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 5 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity
- Both spouses when property is owned jointly
- Spouses in community property states.

2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Danya Hildebrand

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

**Humboldt/Del Norte
County Committee:**

Peter Bussman

Gary Belli

Patrick Fulton

Joey Borges

Richard Wetherell

Kara Miller

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate. Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

Farm Fun at Yokayo Elementry School



FSA Helpers: (left to right) Luke Logan, Will Eddie, Noah Penry, Briley Penry, Matt Delbar, Cooper Johnson and Taylor Delbar.

On October 25, 2012 the Mendocino/Lake FSA staff loaded up their livestock trailers and headed to Yokayo Elementary School. With the help of local youth the school children, grades kindergarten through third grade, learned about the animals and their role in producing the food they eat. The children were also able to pet the animals.

The kids went through the stations in groups of 10. At the first station each child was given a sticker and told the rules on how to behave around the animals. The next station was with Grey, the horse. The kids were asked what they thought Grey's jobs were, how much did he weigh and were instructed not to stand directly behind them, as horses may kick.

The third station was a picture with Tiny, the 2 month-old bummer calf. The kids then proceeded to the chickens, rabbits and had a visit with Affy, the African goose owned by Briley Penry. The kids then visited Betty, the Chester White pig, Blue Bell, the Shorthorn cow, and Sophia and Stephie the pygmy goats. One of the last stations was a visit with Buddy, the angus bummer calf and his owner, Luke Logan. The kids learned that 10 day-old Buddy was fed twice daily with a bottle because he didn't have a mommy to feed him. They also learned that meat to make tacos, hamburgers and meatloaf comes from beef cattle like buddy.

The children ended their Ag Day experience with a visit to NRCS employee Becky Fairbairn and her Bloodhound, Delilah. Becky instructed the children on how to approach dogs and that bloodhounds like Delilah are used to find missing people. Each child then received a goodie bag with coloring pages, bookmarks and pencils. The children had a great time and the outreach was very rewarding for all of us here at Farm Service

Agency.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA. The crop insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, for SURE Payment the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on an inflation index and data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

“SAVING ENERGY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE”

In March 2013, many of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company's agriculture customers will start transitioning to time-of-use electric rates. This transition is part of a statewide plan to help protect California's energy resources. On time-of-use, rates will be higher during summer weekday afternoons when electric demand is higher, typically noon to 6pm., May through October. In return you'll pay lower rates at all other times. This means that when you use energy, is just as important as how much you use.

PG&E provides custom resources to help agriculture customers save money, including additional rate options like Peak Day Pricing. To learn more, visit www.pge.com/TVP or call our Ag Customer Hotline at 1-877-311-FARM (3276).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).