

February 2013



## Humboldt/Del Norte County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Mendocino/Lake County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time. To subscribe visit the [homepage](#) of the Farm Service Agency and click "GO" in the "Stay Connected" box in the right-hand column.

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### Humboldt/ Del Norte County FSA Office

5630 S. Broadway  
Eureka, CA 95503

Phone: 707-442-6058 x 2

Fax: 707-442-7514

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

**County Executive Director:**  
Katie Delbar

**Program Technicians:**  
Dolores Mayorga  
Joleen Logan

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Belle Davis

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Karri Bartolomei

**Farm Loan Program  
Technician:**  
Danya Hildebrand

### MILC Contracts Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. Dairy operations may select a new production start month and to do so must visit their local office between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013 (relief period.)

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### DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### New Microloan Program

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

**Humboldt/Del Norte FSA  
County Committee:**

Peter Bussman, Chairman  
Patrick Fulton, Vice Chair  
Joey Borges, Member  
Richard Wetherell, Member  
Gary Belli, Member  
Kara Miller, Member

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25%.)

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## Hispanic and Women Claims of Discrimination

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until 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.

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. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. Claimants can obtain a claims package in through the toll-free number or by visiting the website below.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Deadline for Claims:** March 25, 2013.

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## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Richard Wetherell who was re-elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5, Southern Del Norte County on the county committee. Richard was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

At their organizational meeting held January 31, 2013 the COC re-elected Peter Bussman as chairman and Patrick Fulton as vice-chair.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

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## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could

result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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## **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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## **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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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).