

September 2013



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Imperial County FSA Updates

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Imperial County FSA Office

177 N. Imperial Ave
El Centro CA 92243

Phone: 760.352.3531 XT2
Fax: 760.352.0219

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee:

Stephen W. Benson, Chair
Gilberto Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Craig Alameda, Regular Mbr.

County Executive Director:

Rosalinda Singh

Program Technicians:

Carmen Perez
Julia Contreras

2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 2013 election in Imperial County will be conducted for the representative for the area of the county north of Keystone Road (Local Administrative Area 1-2).

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using

Farm Loan Staff:
(located in Bakersfield)
Tom Hunton
Elsa Mora
Phone: 661.336.0967 XT2

Next County Committee Meeting: September 25, 2013
@ 9:00 AM (subject to change)

Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the County Office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, please contact the FSA County Office as soon as possible. Incorrect information on file with the County Office may result in the delay of your payments. Direct and Counter Cyclical Program payments for the 2013 crop year are scheduled to be issued in October 2013. **Please notify us of any banking account changes immediately!**

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates - Review Carefully! Some Dates Have Changed!

Producers should file a crop acreage report each year. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For all crops, including Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the deadline for each crop. For exact deadlines on certifications for each type of crop and late filed acreage reporting provisions, call the County Office for information.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

September 30, 2013.....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers)
December 15, 2013.....Perennial Forage, including **Alfalfa, Bermuda, Klein** etc.
January 2, 2014..... Honey
January 15, 2014..... Lemons, Oranges, other Citrus, Potatoes and **Sugar Beets**
March 15, 2014..... Fall Barley, Spring Oats, Fall Alfalfa seed and **Wheat**
June 15, 2014.....Forage seeding (annually planted spring seeded forage such as rye grass or sudan)
July 15, 2014.....Corn, Cotton, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Onions, Safflower, Spring Alfalfa Seed
and all other crops.

2014 NAP Application Closing Date

The NAP program is a risk management tool that provides catastrophic coverage for most crops that are not insurable by Federal Crop insurance. For a nominal fee, or a waived fee if you meet the limited resource farmer definition, you may purchase coverage on your crop for losses due to adverse weather. Participants must file an acreage report and production records each year, meet applicable Adjusted Gross Income eligibility requirements, file a timely notice of loss on the crop that is damaged, and incur greater than a 50% loss of production on the crop by unit to qualify for benefits. For more detailed information on this program, request a copy of the new NAP Basic Provisions from this office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2014 NAP Application Closing Dates:

05/01/2013.....Ornamental Nursery
09/01/2013.....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas trees)
09/01/2013.....All seed crops, including forage with intended use of GR or SD, alfalfa, grass, vegetables
10/01/2013.....Garlic, fall planted
10/31/2013.....Camelina
12/01/2013.....Forage Crops, intended use of FG (silage/hay) and GZ (graze)
12/01/2013.....Honey, onions
12/15/2013.....Most Fruit and Nut Tree crops, Asparagus, Artichokes, Grapes, Mint, Olives, etc.

03/01/2014.....Annual crops (Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots, Peppers, Broccoli, etc.)

2015 First NAP Application Closing Dates

01/01/2014.....Citrus

If you are not sure if your crop is covered through federal crop insurance or NAP, please contact this office. Fruit and nut trees must meet specific age requirements to obtain coverage. If you do not see the crop you grow on this list, contact this office for clarification. The CCC-471 NAP Application for Coverage form and the applicable fee must be submitted by these dates in order for your crop to have coverage in 2014.

MicroLoans

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. Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the Farm Loan Staff in the Bakersfield office at 661.336.0967 XT2.

Foreign Holders of US Ag Land

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. Contact FSA for more information

Important Dates:

SEPTEMBER 25 - NEXT COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 14 - HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 4 - COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

DECEMBER 2 - DEADLINE TO RETURN VOTED COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS

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