
December 2013



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Table of Contents

- [NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED](#)
- [FSA SIGNATURE POLICY](#)
- [2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES](#)
- [FSA ADVISES PRODUCERS TO ANTICIPATE PAYMENT REDUCTIONS DUE TO MANDATED SEQUESTER](#)
- [NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \(NAP\)](#)
- [DATES TO REMEMBER](#)

Imperial County FSA Updates

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

NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot, and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Tulare County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA

Program Technicians:

Carmen Perez
Julia Contreras

programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

Farm Loan Staff:

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

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

The candidate in this year's election is:
Manuel Castro is nominated in LAA2 - that part of the Imperial Valley north of Keystone Road.

Next County Committee

Meeting: Feb. 19, 2014

@9AM

(subject to change)

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact our office.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that had a December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include perennial forage. In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact the Imperial County FSA office to arrange an appointment to file an accurate crop certification report by applicable deadlines.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Imperial County:

December 15, 2013: Perennial Forage all uses - can report until January 15, 2014 without late-file fee

January 2, 2014: Honey*

January 15, 2014: Sugar Beets, Potatoes, Citrus

March 15, 2014: Wheat, Barley, Oats

May 15, 2014: Table Grapes

May 31, 2014: Nursery*

June 15, 2014: Forage Seeding: Sudan, ryegrass (all annually planted spring-seeded forage crops)

July 15, 2014: Spring Seeded Barley & Oats, Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Onions, Safflower, Tomatoes, and all other crops and land uses

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

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.

Additionally, producers can purchase both NAP and RMA coverage for 2014 annual forage crops.

Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014.

FSA ADVISES PRODUCERS TO ANTICIPATE PAYMENT REDUCTIONS DUE TO MANDATED SEQUESTER

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in FY2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for FY2014 is 7.2%. Accordingly, FSA is implementing sequestration for the following programs:

- Marketing Assistance Loans;
- Loan Deficiency Payments;
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program;
- 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments;
- 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election Program;

These sequester percentages reflect current law estimates; however with the continuing budget uncertainty, Congress still may adjust the exact percentage reduction. Today's announcement intends to help producers plan for the impact of sequestration cuts in FY2014.

At this time, FSA is required to implement the sequester reductions. Due to the expiration of the Farm Bill on September 30, FSA does not have the flexibility to cover these payment reductions in the same manner as in FY13. FSA will provide notification as early as practicable on the specific payment reductions.

For information about FSA programs, visit our office or go to www.fsa.usda.gov/

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage." Producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the applicable crop deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of the service fee at the time the application for coverage is filed. Producers must recertify their limited resource status for each year that a waiver is requested.

Upcoming 2014 NAP Sales Closing Dates include:

March 1, 2014- Annual crops: Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots, Peppers, Broccoli, etc....

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact your local FSA office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 25 - Christmas Day Office Closed

January 1, 2014 - New Year's Day Office Closed

January 2 - Crop Reporting deadline for Honey

January 15 - Crop Reporting deadline for Sugar beets, potatoes, citrus and extended deadline for perennial forage

March 1 - 2014 NAP application closing date for Annuals (Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots, Peppers, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, etc...)

March 15 - Crop Reporting deadline for Wheat, fall barley & spring oats (planted 10/1-2/15)

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).