

February 2014



Imperial County FSA Updates

Imperial County FSA Office

177 N. Imperial Ave
El Centro, CA 92243

Phone: 760.352.3531 XT2
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Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee:

Craig Alameda
Manuel Castro
Gilberto Gonzalez

County Executive Director:
Rosalinda Singh

Program Technicians:

Carmen Perez
Julia Contreras

Farm Loan Staff:

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

Next County Committee Meeting: Feb. 25 @ 9AM
(subject to change)

County Committee Election Results

Voted ballots for the Imperial County Office Committee Elections were counted on January 23, 2014 and the results are in! Manuel Castro was elected COC member for a three year term. Luis Zendejas will serve as 1st Alternate. Congratulations Manuel and Luis! Thank you to all who voted for your agricultural representative.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact your local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Records Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Official documents, such as a copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased property or a signed lease for rented property, is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to report changes can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

While making record updates, it's a good idea to update signature authorizations as well. Please contact our office **now** if you have land changes for 2014.

Upcoming Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Producers should file a crop acreage report with FSA 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.

Upcoming 2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

03/15/2014 Wheat and other small grains

05/15/2014 Table Grapes

05/31/2014 Container Nursery

06/15/2014 Forage Seeding: Sudan, Ryegrass (all annually planted spring seeded forage crops)

09/30/2013 Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas Trees)

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.

Security Requirements

For annual operating purposes, microloans must be secured by a first lien on a farm property or agricultural products having a security value of at least 100 percent of the microloan amount, and up to 150 percent, when available. Microloans made for purposes other than annual operating expenses must be secured by a first lien on a farm property (chattel) or agricultural products purchased with loan funds and having a security value of at least 100 percent of the microloan amount. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold.

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

FEB 25	NEXT COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 01	NAP SALES CLOSING DATE FOR ANNUAL CROPS
MARCH 15	ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE FOR WHEAT & OTHER SMALL GRAINS

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