

March 2014



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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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

#### County Committee:

Gilbert Gonzalez, Chair  
Manuel Castro, Vice-Chair  
Craig Alameda, Reg. Mbr

#### 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: May 25 @ 9AM**  
(subject to change)

### NEW FARM BILL PROVIDES PERMANENT LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The 2014 Farm Bill, formally known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) permanent programs and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014. As USDA begins implementing the livestock disaster assistance programs, producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters

- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Many producers still have questions. USDA is in the process of interpreting Farm Bill program regulations. Additional information will be provided once the enrollment period is announced. In the meantime, producers can review the [LIP and LFP Fact Sheets](#). Thanks for your patience as USDA works diligently to put Farm Bill programs into action to benefit the farmers and ranchers of rural America.

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## CALIFORNIA FARMERS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

All California counties were declared a primary/contiguous disaster due to drought and heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. On February 26, 2014 Secretarial Designation # S3650 was issued and includes Imperial County as a contiguous disaster county. Under this designation, Imperial County producers are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans. Deadline to apply for emergency loans under this designation is OCTOBER 27, 2014.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact farm loan staff or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 AND 2013 AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicates may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500].

Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the AGI limitation of \$500,000 of nonfarm income, \$750,000 of farm income, \$1 million of conservation program benefits or the \$1 million total AGI, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the applicable limitation. The California FSA State Office will soon begin notifying producers selected for review. If you have any questions about the review process or determination, please contact the California FSA State Office at 530-792-5520. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office. Adverse determinations become administratively final if not timely appealed and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

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## 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Imperial County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Imperial County:

March 15, 2014:	Wheat & other small grains
May 15, 2014:	Table Grapes
May 31, 2014:	Nursery
June 15, 2014:	Sudan, Ryegrass & all annually planted spring seeded forage crops
July 15, 2014: crops	Corn, Cotton, Onions, Safflower, Sudan, Tomatoes & other

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.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, or to arrange an appointment to report your crops, please contact this office at 760.352.3531 XT2.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

April - Signups begin for LIP and LFP - Tentative

May 15 - Deadline to report Table Grapes

May 28 - 9AM - Next County Committee Meeting - Tentative date

May 31 - Deadline to report nursery

June 15 - Deadline to report Sudan, ryegrass and all other annually planted spring seeded forage

July 15 - Deadline to report corn, cotton, onions, safflower, sudan, tomatoes & other crops

Oct 27 - Deadline to apply for Emergency Loans for Disaster Designation #S3560

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