

June 2014



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## Imperial County FSA Updates

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### Imperial County FSA Office

177 N. Imperial Avenue  
El Centro CA 92243

Phone: 760.352.3531 XT2  
Fax: 760.352.0210

#### 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

### USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) OFFERS FARM BILL WEBSITE AND ONLINE OVERVIEW OF FARM BILL PROGRAMS

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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Jamie Duggan-Lara, Intern

[Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**Farm Loan Staff:**

(located in Bakersfield)

Tom Hunton

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## IMPERIAL COUNTY COMMITTEE ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 ELECTION

**Next County Committee**

**Meeting: Sept. 24 @ 9AM**  
(tentative)

The Imperial County Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2014 County Committee Election for the Bard/Winterhaven/Palo Verde area, also known as Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3. The County Committee nomination period is open now through August 1, 2014. The actual election will take place in November and the elected candidate will take office in January 2015.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Livestock disaster program includes:

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have 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. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

## **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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## **NEW FARM BILL OFFERS INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCERS**

The 2014 Farm Bill offers increased opportunities for producers including farm loan program modifications that create flexibility for new and existing farmers. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is available [here](#).

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan Program from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guaranteed percentage on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward direct operating loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the [FSA Farm Bill website](#) for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

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## **2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE - JULY 15**

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit this office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. Next reporting deadline is July 15th and includes the following crops:

Corn, Cotton, Onions, Safflower, Tomatoes, spring seeded barley & oats and any other crops not included in previous acreage reporting deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting date:

- 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, please contact this office.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 4 - Holiday - Office closed

JULY 15 - Deadline to report corn, cotton, onions, safflower, tomatoes and more

AUG 1 - Last day to submit County Committee nomination form for LAA 3

AUG 1 - Deadline to enroll in 2012 and 2013 ELAP

NOV 1 - Deadline to enroll in 2014 ELAP

JAN 30, 2015 - Deadline to enroll in 2012, 2013 & 2014 LIP & LFP

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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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