

December 2012



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## Kings County FSA Updates

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### Kings County FSA Office

680 Campus Drive Suite C  
Hanford, CA 93230

#### Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Executive Director:**  
Kathy L Sargent

#### Program Technicians:

Joan Avila

Winifred Brogan

Nathan Olson

Lillian Hernandez

#### Farm Loan Manager:

(located in Visalia Office)

Tom Roberts

#### Farm Loan Staff:

Patricia Miller

Slade Childers

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) . and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. Public meetings are also being held in many areas to share further information. Contact your nearest FSA office to get a schedule in your area.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentonly=true>

**County Committee:**

Peter Rietkerk

Ceil Howe III

Ralph Alcala Jr.

Michael Miya - Advisor

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.



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## **2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins, cucumbers and others, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, producers must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in the Secretarial Disaster Designation for the county or a 50% loss in actual crop production.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/).

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## **2013 Ag Census Coming**

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the February 4, 2013 deadline.

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts **everyone** across our nation.

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## **Please call the office to make an appointment for acreage reporting prior to coming into the office. (559) 585-8732 Ext 2**

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### **Dates to Remember**

Dec. 15, 2012	2013 Acreage report due for Perennial Forage (Alfalfa), Native Grass & Clover
Dec. 15, 2012	NAP 2013 application closing for fruit/nut/tree crops, Asparagus, artichokes, herbs
Dec. 25, 2012	Christmas Day, FSA office closed
Jan 1, 2013	New Years Day, FSA office closed
March 1, 2013	NAP 2013 closing for all annual crops
March 15, 2013	2013 Acreage report due for wheat, barley, oats, seed alfalfa, fruit/nut tree crops
March 25, 2013	Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period ends
June 7, 2013	SURE applications due for 2011 crop year

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).