

November 2013



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Kings County FSA Updates

Kings County FSA Office
680 Campus Drive Suite C
Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: 559-585-8732
Fax: 559-584-8715

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:
8:00am - 4:30 pm

County Executive Director:
Kathy L Sargent

Program Technicians:
Joan Avila
Winifred Brogan
Lillian Hernandez
Nathan Olson

Farm Loan Manager:
(Located in Visalia Office)
Tom Roberts

Farm Loan Staff:
Patricia Miller
Slade Childers

Visalia Phone: 559-734-8732

Next County Committee Meeting:
December 4 2013 at 9:00 AM

Reporting of Fall Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting deadline for 2014 for perennial forage such as **alfalfa** or native pasture land is **December 15, 2013**. All other crops which are planted may also be reported at this time. Please call for an appointment to certify your crops. The one year grace period for late crop reporting has expired. Producers who fail to meet the deadline will incur late filing fees.

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, be sure to update signature authorizations. Although we do not have a signed farm bill, we are continuing to process these types of changes. Please contact our office **now** if you have land changes for 2014.

Payments Issued for 2013 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program

Payments have been issued for all producers with approved contracts administered under the 2013 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, requires a reduction in most federal payments obligated in 2013, which is known as a sequester. Direct payments issued under the 2013 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) have been reduced by 8.6 percent due to sequester-related reductions.

Farmers, Ranchers Can Apply For 2014 Conservation Funding

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications from farmers and ranchers wishing to participate in the 2014 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **The cut-off deadline for accepting applications is November 15, 2013.**

The EQIP program offers funds on a cost-share basis to producers for practices ranging from animal waste systems to wind breaks to grazing systems. Applications are scored and ranked based on a locally modified scoring system striving to get the best environmental benefits. It gives each county an opportunity to focus EQIP dollars and prioritize conservation work to address its most pressing resource needs.

The program's objective is to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP rules are expected to be revised by Congress as part of the next farm bill. It offers financial and technical assistance to implement measures that will address water quality and erosion concerns as well as restoration of wildlife habitat. The list of potential practices is lengthy and should meet the needs of a number of producers in the county.

Landowners wanting more information about EQIP and how it can be used to install conservation measures on their property should contact their local NRCS office. In Kings County, the NRCS office is located at 680 Campus Drive, Ste E, Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 584-9209 x 3.

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters in early November to eligible producers in the Lemoore/Stratford/Avenal area. Nominees are Ronda Brooks and Ceil Howe III. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **Dec. 2, 2013**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 2, 2013. Voters are reminded that each voter must sign their own ballot. **Power of Attorney forms are not valid for election purposes.**

2014 NAP Application Closing Dates

The NAP program is a risk management tool that provides catastrophic coverage for most crops that are not insurable by Federal Crop insurance. For a nominal fee, or a waived fee if you meet the limited resource farmer definition, you may purchase coverage on your crop for losses due to adverse weather. Participants must file an acreage report and production records each year, meet applicable Adjusted Gross Income eligibility requirements, file a timely notice of loss on the crop that is damaged, and incur greater than a 50% loss of production on the crop by unit to qualify for benefits. For more detailed information on this program, request a copy of the new NAP Basic Provisions from this office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2014 NAP Application Closing Dates:

05/01/2013.....Ornamental Nursery
09/01/2013.....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas trees)
09/01/2013.....All seed crops, including forage with intended use of GR or SD, alfalfa, clover, grass, vegetables
10/01/2013.....***NEW DATE TO PURCHASE STRAWBERRY COVERAGE***
10/01/2013.....Garlic, fall planted
10/31/2013.....Camelina
12/01/2013.....Forage Crops, intended use of FG (silage/hay) and GZ (graze)
12/01/2013.....Honey
12/01/2013.....Onions
12/15/2013.....Most Fruit and Nut Tree crops, Asparagus, Artichokes,
Caneberries, Grapes, Mint, Olives, etc.
01/31/2014.....Apples (if not insurable)
03/01/2014.....Annual crops (Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots,
Peppers, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, etc)

2015 First NAP Application Closing Dates

01/01/2014.....Avocados and citrus

If you are not sure if your crop is covered through federal crop insurance or NAP, please contact this office. Fruit and nut trees must meet specific age requirements to obtain coverage. If you do not see the crop you grow on this list, contact this office for clarification. The CCC-471 NAP Application for Coverage form and the applicable fee must be submitted by these dates in order for your crop to have coverage in 2014.

Small Farm Conference Scholarships Available

Beginning farmers, small farmers, students, employees, farm market managers and those considering farming should attend California's annual Small Farm Conference March 9 – 11, 2014 in Rohnert Park. To help individuals who are unable to cover expenses, the Conference is accepting scholarship applications through December 6, 2013.

Highlighting the 27th edition of this valuable and informative event are a wide variety of field courses, workshops, exhibit sessions, a photo contest and plenty of networking with men and women knowledgeable in solving start-up and small farm problems.

Trends to be examined include agritourism, organic vs. conventional farming, specialty crops, biodiversity, food safety, farm crop selection, business decision-making, direct and other marketing, land and labor, pest and weed management and more.

For scholarship applications and a list of advisors, call 888-712-4188 or email conference@californiafarmconference.com. For further conference information and registration visit www.californiafarmconference.com or visit them on Facebook.

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).