

July 2014



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [ACREAGE REPORTING DATES](#)
- [FARM RECORDS CHANGES](#)
- [HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND COMPLIANCE](#)
- [KINGS COUNTY COMMITTEE ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 ELECTION](#)
- [LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY](#)
- [USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY \(FSA\) OFFERS FARM BILL WEBSITE AND ONLINE OVERVIEW OF FARM BILL PROGRAMS](#)

Kings County FSA Updates

Kings County FSA Office

680 Campus Dr. Suite C
Hanford, CA 93230

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

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:
8:00 am - 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

Next County Committee Meeting: July 23 at 9:00 am
(Tentative)

ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

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

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Kings County:

January 2: Honey

March 15: Alfalfa Seed, Nut Crops, Fruit Tree Crops,
Fall Seeded Grain Crops

May 15: Table Grapes and Wine or Juice Grapes

July 15: Vegetables, Melons, Onions, Tomatoes,
Cotton, Spring Planted Alfalfa Seed, Corn,
Grain Sorghum, Safflower, Dry Beans and
any crop not reported earlier

July 31: Raisins

2015 Crop Year Reporting:

December 15: Perennial Forage (native pasture for grazing
and alfalfa hay) for the 2015 year

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.

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. Please contact our office **now** if you have land changes for 2014.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact the FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

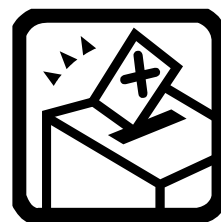
KINGS COUNTY COMMITTEE ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 ELECTION

The Kings County Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2014 County Committee Election for the Hanford/Kingsburg area, also known as Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. 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.

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 boundaries are located south to Kansas Avenue, west to 16th Avenue, north to the Fresno County Line, and east to 1st Avenue. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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.



LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on native pasture due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land. Kings County livestock producers are eligible for drought assistance for crop year 2013 and 2014. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses are reminded that the signup deadline for the LFP program is January 30, 2015. Please contact the Kings County FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll in the LFP program.

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 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 the Kings County 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.

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 (losses due to coyotes are not covered). Signup deadline for this program is January 30, 2015.

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

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 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.

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).