

February 2013



Mendocino/Lake County Farm Service Agency

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Mendocino/Lake County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time. To subscribe visit the [homepage](#) of the Farm Service Agency and click "GO" in the "Stay Connected" box in the right-hand column.

Mendocino/Lake County FSA New Microloan Program Office

1252 Airport Park Blvd., Ste B-1
Ukiah, CA 95482

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

Phone: 707-468-9225 x 2

Fax: 707-468-5278

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

County Executive Director:
Katie Delbar

Program Technician:
Joleen Logan

Farm Loan Manager:
Belle Davis

Farm Loan Officer:
Karri Bartolomei

Farm Loan Program Technician:
Danya Hildebrand

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25%.)

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have qualifying losses of at least 10 percent production loss affecting at least one crop of economic significance due to natural disaster on a farm in a disaster county.

Producers outside a declared disaster county are eligible if they experience production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production in the farm. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop

**Mendocino/Lake Farm Service
Agency County Committee:**

Nellie Dorn, Chairperson
Joy Valadez, Vice Chair
Lawrence Mailliard, Member
Richard LaMalfa, Member
Dan Campbell, Member
Stephanie Williamson, Advisor

Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

Hispanic and Women Claims of Discrimination

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until 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.

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. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. Claimants can obtain a claims package in through the toll-free number or by visiting the website below.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Larry Mailliard and Nellie Dorn who were re-elected for Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 2 and 5 on the county committee. Larry was re-elected to his 2nd consecutive term and will represent farmers and ranchers in Southwestern Mendocino County. Nellie was re-elected to her 2nd consecutive term and will represent farmers and ranchers in Southern Lake County.

At their organizational meeting held February 6, 2012 the committee elected Nellie Dorn to act as chairperson and Joy Valadez to act as Vice Chair for the 2013 calendar year.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Mendocino and Lake Counties Eligible for USDA Emergency Loans

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's designation of an emergency in 6 California counties on December 19, 2012, these counties listed below have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on January 1, 2012 and continuing. As a result of the designations, these counties are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY DISASTER COUNTIES (6)

| | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------|
| Amador | Merced | San Luis Obispo |
| Sonoma | Ventura | Yolo |

In addition, the following contiguous counties are eligible:

CALIFORNIA CONTIGUOUS DISASTER COUNTIES (24)

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Alpine | Calaveras | Colusa | El Dorado | Fresno |
| Kern | Kings | Lake | Los Angeles | Madera |
| Marin | Mariposa | Mendocino | Monterey | Napa |
| Sacramento | San Benito | Santa Barbara | San Joaquin | |
| Solano | Santa Clara | Stanislaus | Sutter | Tuolumne |

Farmers in all counties have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Some of the eligibility requirements are listed below:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet other eligibility criteria.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, which reflects the exact date(s) and nature of the designated disaster and how it caused the loss or damage. Crop insurance field reports may be a source for documenting losses directly related to the cited cause.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications under this authorization expires on August 19, 2013. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to obtain an application.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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).