

February 2014



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

- [County Committee Election Results](#)
- [2014 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Emergency Loans - Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations](#)
- [MICROLOAN Program](#)

Merced/Mariposa County FSA Updates

Merced County FSA Office:

Office Location:

2926 G Street, Suite 103
Merced, CA 95340-2110

Contact Information:

Phone (209)722-4119 ext. 2
Fax (209)722-0974

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee (COC):

Arthur W. Richards
Virginia E. Bright
Simon Vander Wouder
Pasquale Palazzo
Jose D. Vazquez

Farm Program Staff:

Garrett Pedretti, CED
Lydia Swilley, PT
Gizela Gover, PT
Lenai Mull, PT
Tina Frey, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM

County Committee Election Results

County Committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Congratulations to Arthur W. Richards and Virginia E. Bright!

Arthur W. Richards was re-elected to represent farmers and ranchers from Mariposa County and is serving his third consecutive term. We would like to welcome our newest member to our county committee Virginia E. Bright. She will be serving her first term, she is representing farmers and ranchers from Eastern Merced County from Highway 99 East to the county lines.

The election results for Local Administrative Area #3 and #4 are as follows:

LAA #3 Merced

- Virginia E. Bright - COC Member
- Robert L. Ferreria - 1st alternate to COC

LAA #4 Mariposa

- Arthur W. Richards - COC Member
- Norene Borba - 1st alternate to COC

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program

Aileen Garcia, FLO
Laura Westerfield, FLOT
Phyllis Boyle, PT

issues.

Next COC Meeting:

February 20, 2014 @ 9.00am

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on February 18, 2014 and join the existing committee.

For more information about county committees and the election process please contact our local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

March 15, 2014:

Alfalfa seed (spring), wheat (fall and spring), almonds, apples, barley (fall), cherries, figs, apricots (FR and PR), freestone peaches (FR and PR), nectarines (FR), oats (fall), pears, plums, cling peaches (PR), prunes, walnuts.

May 15, 2014:

Grapes and table grapes, Potatoes planted 1/01 – 3/15/2014 (Kern).

June 15, 2014:

Forage for seed crops and Strawberries all other plant dates.

July 15, 2014:

Alfalfa seed (spring), barley (spring), wheat (Lassen, Modoc & Siskiyou spring), corn, cotton (upland and ELS), cultivated wild rice, dry beans, tomatoes (FR and PR), grain sorghum, mint, oats (spring), onions, rice, safflower, and all other crops except raisins. Strawberries (all other plant dates). Potatoes planted 3/15 - 5/15/2014 (Riverside, Modoc, Siskiyou & San Joaquin).

July 31, 2014:

Raisins

September 15, 2014:

Potatoes planted 6/11 – 8/01/2014 (San Joaquin)

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- 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 the Merced County FSA office at

(209)722-4119 ext. 2.

Emergency Loans - Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations

As a result of these designations, the counties listed are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

The following current disaster designations have been declared by the Secretary of Agriculture:

Date Declared: 07/03/2013

Designation Code: S3547

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties 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 May 5, 2013 through July 1, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 03/03/2014

Date Declared: 07/31/2013

Designation Code: S3558

Disaster Description: Merced County has 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 June 4, 2013 through July 29, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 03/31/2014

Date Declared: 01/15/2014

Designation Code: S3626

Disaster Description: Merced, Mariposa and Madera Counties 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, 2014 and continuing.

Final Date to Apply: 09/15/2014

Some of the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the 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 all other eligibility criteria.

MICROLOAN Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche, and small family operations. This program is to assist farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. Eligibility, Security, Rates, and Term regulations and guidelines are the same as of the

Farm Direct Operating Loan Program. For more information please contact the Merced County FSA Office, and ask to speak with someone on the loan team.

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).