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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, Chair
Simon Vander Woude, Vice
Chair
Pasquale Palazzo, Member
Virginia E. Bright, Member
Jose Vazquez, Advisor

Farm Program Staff:
Garrett Pedretti, CED

NEW FARM BILL PROVIDES PERMANENT LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) permanent programs and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses.

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who 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, including wolves and avian predators.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014.

As USDA begins implementing the livestock disaster assistance programs, producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and

Lydia Swilley, PT
Gizela Gover, PT
Lenai Mull, PT
Tina Frey, PT

production records

- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters
- Evidence of damaged farmland.

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM
Aileen Garcia, FLO
Laura Westerfield, FLOT
Phyllis Boyle, PT

Many producers still have questions. USDA is in the process of interpreting Farm Bill program regulations. Additional information will be provided once the enrollment period is announced. Thanks for your patience as USDA works diligently to put Farm Bill programs into action to benefit the farmers and ranchers of rural America.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

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

March 15, 2014	Alfalfa seed, 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, and walnuts.
May 15, 2014	Grapes and table grapes and 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
Sept. 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 dates 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.

ONLINE RESOURCE FOR FSA QUESTIONS

FSA Customers, Are you looking for answers to your questions?

Then ASK FSA! AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your Farm Service Agency (FSA) questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is available to all customers at askfsa.custhelp.com.

Through AskFSA you can:

- Access our knowledge base 24/7.
- Receive answers to your questions faster.
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from FSA experts.
- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operations are updated.
- Customize your account settings and view responses at anytime.

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: 07/31/2013

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: 12/13/2013

Designation Code: M4158

Disaster Description: Mariposa and Madera Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of production losses or physical losses based on damages and losses caused by the Rim Fire, which occurred on August 17, 2013 through October 24, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 08/13/2014

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.

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).