

February 2013



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## Modoc County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Modoc County FSA Office

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Alturas, CA 96101

Phone: 530-233-4391  
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**County Executive Director:**  
Christopher Lauppe

**Program Technician:**  
Marlene Hamilton

### DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### New Microloan Program

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.

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%.) For additional information contact Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager, at [Katherine.Lewis@ca.usda.gov](mailto:Katherine.Lewis@ca.usda.gov) or call her at 530-842-6123 ext 2.

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### Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop

year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Deadline for Claims:** March 25, 2013.

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## Quotes - Will Rogers 1879-1935

*"You got to do more than just live in the country to be a farmer."*

*"Here is my Farm Relief bill: Every time a Southerner plants nothing on his farm but cotton year after year, and the Northerner nothing but wheat or corn, why take a hammer and hit him twice right between the eyes. You may dent your hammer, but it will do more real good than all the bills you can pass in a year."*

*Congress knew Coolidge would veto the farm bill. There was more politics than relief in that bill."*

*"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer."*

*"Farmers have about given up hope of getting farm relief and have decided to fertilize instead."*

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## NRCS Program Extension

The Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) sign-up has been extended to March 15. In this area the program applies to Modoc, Lassen and Washoe Counties. Contact your NRCS Office.

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## NRCS Office Staff Update

The **Alturas NRCS Office** has had changes. Larry Flournoy retired Dec. 31. Staff members are: Bryon Hadwick, District Conservationist; Tom Hill, Engineer; Bryan Voelker, Range Mgt Specialist; Brandon Dye, Range Mgt Technician; Brandon Colbert, Range Mgt Technician; Mark Steffek, Engineering Technician, ACES; Macey Van Dyke, Farm Bill Assistant. Call them at 233-4137. If no answer use 233-4391.

The **Tulelake NRCS Office** is also changing. Gene Kelley is retiring March 1. Staff members are: Bryon Hadwick, Acting District Conservationist; Allison West, Wildlife Biologist; John Pandozzi, Resource Conservationist; Patrick Penturf, Soil Conservationist; Venancio Hernandez, Soil Con. Technician; Leslie Kelley, Team Program Assistant; Glenda Kleiner-Whaling, Farm Bill Assistant. Call them at 667-4247, listen for ext. options.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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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).

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