

March 2013



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Modoc/Lassen/Plumas/Sierra 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 state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Modoc County FSA Office 802
W 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
Phone 530-233-4391
Fax 530-233-8869

Multi-County Newsletter for the Modoc County and the Lassen/Plumas/Sierra County FSA Offices

Lassen/Plumas/Sierra
County FSA Office
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
Ph 530-257-4127 ext 104
Fax 530-257-5252

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA began sign-ups for DCP and ACRE on Feb. 19. ACRE option sign-up ends June 3 and DCP sign-up ends August 2. Programs are mostly unchanged for 2012. Due to current "Sequestration" full payments are not guaranteed to be made. Contact your FSA office to get signed up if you have a farm with crop acreage bases. Don't wait until you are busy planting crops!! Give Marlene in Alturas or Debi in Susanville a call now to get signed up.

County Executive Director:
Christopher Lauppe

Program Technicians:
Marlene Hamilton (Alturas)
Debi Michaels (Susanville)

Hispanic and Women Claims of Discrimination

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades regarding farm loans can file claims until March 25, 2013. The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for these farmers and ranchers 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. Phone 1-888-508-4429 and go to website www.farmerclaims.gov for additional information on filing a claim.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA now offers a new MICROLOAN Program for operating loans up to \$35,000. These loans require less paperwork and have reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security.

In addition to the MICROLOAN Program, FSA continues to offer Operating Loans, Ownership Loans, Youth Loans, Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loans, and Guaranteed Loans.

Modoc and Lassen counties were recently named Secretarial Disaster Counties due to drought in 2013. Emergency Loans are now available through FSA to Modoc and Lassen producers and producers in counties adjoining either Modoc or Lassen.

Contact Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager, at 530-842-6123 ext 2, for any Farm Loan Program inquiries.

Conservation Reserve Program Sign-up

A four-week CRP general sign-up will be held May 2 through June 14, 2013 in all FSA offices. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits to improve water quality, control soil erosion, and develop wildlife habitat. Contract durations are between 10 and 15 years. Offers are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI).

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

Applications for the SURE program for 2011 crop losses will be accepted through June 7, 2013. To be eligible, producers must have had crop insurance on all insurable crops raised in 2011.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Prior year production records for producers with NAP insured crops must be reported to FSA no later than July 15 each year in order to be used to calculate the producer's annual average Actual Production History (APH). The APH is used in calculating loss percentage and payment in the event of a NAP-insured crop loss. Producers with any NAP-insured losses must report the loss to FSA within 15 days of the producer's knowledge of the loss.

NRCS - Brandon Colbert, Range Management Technician, Alturas, CA

Paul Harvey Was Right

In agriculturally-minded circles, it is almost a given that the most widely appreciated commercial of Super Bowl Sunday 2013, was Dodge Truck's homage to the American farmer. The commercial was narrated by a recording of the late radio personality, Paul Harvey (1918-2009), reading an excerpt from his speech "So God Made a Farmer." Drawing on the imagery found in the first creation narrative in the Hebrew Bible (Genesis 1-2:3), Harvey related how on the "eighth day", God needed someone who would work hard, care for the land, care for the animals, and be active in the community; this resulted in the creation of the farmer.

Farming and ranching has never been and never will be easy. With an economy that is not recovering as well as many would like, and a changing climate that is bringing with it unpredictable, and often harsh, weather patterns, the future of agriculture will be no less difficult than the worst our grandparents and great-grandparents faced. NRCS is aware of these challenges and is committed to helping our producers both adjust and thrive. Our agency was born out of the climactic disaster commonly known as the Dust Bowl, and has since aimed to assist

farmers and ranchers in implementing sound and sustainable conservation practices on their land.

All of us, farmer or not, are dependent upon a healthy environment. NRCS, like the wise farmer or rancher, seeks to see the land flourish. By assisting producers in the stewardship of our agricultural resources, NRCS is proud to be on that journey with the women and men called farmers.

Quotes - Will Rogers 1879-1935

"These dust storms....Poor farmer spent a lifetime fixin' his farm and everything....goes out and looks down at it, and it's up above him."

"Farmers have more Associations, and Bureaus, and Clubs, than they have pitchforks."

"It rained in the Middle West. Farmers are learning that the relief they get from the sky beats what they get from Washington."

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).