

July 2013



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Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo County News

Dear Producers. Welcome to GovDelivery bulletins and news from your Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo County FSA office. 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. **"Si desea una copia de este Boletín informativo en Español, contacte oficina del condado al (831) 424-7377 ext. 103."** *Note, due to staff reductions, it is recommended you telephone the county office for an appointment in order to receive effective service.*

Monterey County FSA

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County Committee (COC) Elections

The election of local agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees is important to farmers and ranchers. County Committee members assist FSA by helping deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help oversee administration of farm programs in their counties and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

This year, the 2013 election will take place in central Monterey County (LAA#2). This area lies between Gonzales and San Lucas. A map of this area is available in the County Office. The COC nomination deadline is August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and online:

English:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf

Spanish:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_es_130405v01.pdf

Committee elections will take place on December 2, 2013. Detailed information about COC eligibility and voting can be found at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, or provided to you by the county office.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a new Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small farm operations. The low-interest FSA Microloan can help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The streamlined application process fits

the needs of new and smaller producers. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$35,000 to pay for start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000. Applicants can also obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program. Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with the FSA Farm Loan Officer at 831-424-7377 ext. 110.

Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

Producers should file a crop acreage report each year. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For all crops, including Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the deadline for each crop. For exact deadlines on certifications for each type of crop and *late filed acreage reporting provisions*, call the County Office for information.

2013 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

May 31, 2012.....Container Nursery
September 15, 2012....Strawberries planted 6/15/2012 through 8/15/2012
September 30, 2012....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas trees)
December 15, 2012.....Perennial Forage, including Native Grass
January 2, 2013.....Honey
January 15, 2013.....Strawberries planted 8/16/2012 through 11/15/2012
January 15, 2013.....Avocados, Blueberries, Lemons, Oranges, other Citrus, and sugar beets
March 15, 2013.....Barley, Wheat, Oats for Grain or Forage Hay
March 15, 2013.....Alfalfa seed, Almonds, Apples, Barley, Cherries, Figs, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Walnuts
May 15, 2013.....Grapes
June 15, 2013.....Forage seeding (crops such as alfalfa, rye grass, sudan grown for seed)
July 15, 2013.....Caneberries, Corn, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Rice, Safflower, CRP, Strawberries planted after 11/15/2013 and all other crops

2014 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Closing Date

The NAP program is a risk management tool that provides catastrophic coverage for most crops that are not insurable by Federal Crop insurance. For a nominal fee, or a waived fee if you meet the limited resource farmer definition, you may purchase coverage on your crop for losses due to adverse weather. Participants must file an acreage report and production records each year, meet applicable Adjusted Gross Income eligibility requirements, file a timely notice of loss on the crop that is damaged, and incur greater than a 50% loss of production on the crop by unit to qualify for benefits. For more detailed information on this program, request a copy of the new NAP Basic Provisions from this office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2014 NAP Application Closing Dates:

05/01/2013.....Ornamental Nursery
09/01/2013.....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas trees)
09/01/2013.....All seed crops, including forage with intended use of GR or SD, alfalfa, clover, grass, vegetables

10/01/2013.....Garlic, fall planted
10/31/2013.....Camelina
12/01/2013.....Onions
12/01/2013.....Forage Crops, intended us of FG (hay) and GZ (graze)
12/01/2013.....Honey
12/15/2013.....Most Fruit and Nut Tree crops, Asparagus, Artichokes, Caneberries, Grapes, Mint, Olives
Strawberries
01/31/2014.....Apples
03/01/2014.....Annual crops (Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots, Peppers, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, etc)

Fruit and nut trees must meet specific age requirements to obtain coverage. If you do not see the crop you grow on this list, contact this office for clarification. The CCC-471 NAP Application for Coverage form and the applicable fee must be submitted by these dates in order for your crop to have coverage in 2014.

Direct Countercyclical Program (DCP) Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013 deadline. The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012. Producers must file complete acreage reports and meet other eligibility requirements to participate. Contact the FSA county office for an appointment to enroll or for additional information.

Foreign Land Notification

Foreign Landowner 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. Foreign persons who 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 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. If you are a county government official, real estate agent, attorney or are involved in real estate transactions remember to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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).