September 2013

NEWSLETTER

USDA

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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 traduccion de este Boletin informative en Espanol, contacte oficina del condada al (831) 424-7377 ext. 103."**

Monterey County FSA

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8:00am - 4:30 pm,
excluding holidays

COC meeting:
December 5, 2013

County Committee (COC) Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.   The sole candidate running for election this year in central Monterey County is Betty Barrington.

Important Changes to 2014 NAP Application Closing Dates

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

9:00 am
(meeting dates may change,
please call to confirm)

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 us of GR or
                                SD, alfalfa, clover, grass, vegetables
10/01/2013.........NEW DATE TO PURCHASE STRAWBERRY
                                COVERAGE******
10/01/2013.........Garlic,   fall   planted
10/31/2013.........Camelina
12/01/2013.........Forage Crops, intended us of FG (hay) and GZ (graze)
12/01/2013.........Honey
12/01/2013.........Onions (only in Santa Cruz & San Mateo Counties--onions
                                are now insurable via Federal Crop insurance in Monterey
                                County)
12/15/2013.........Most Fruit and Nut Tree crops, Asparagus, Artichokes,
                                Caneberries, Grapes, Mint, Olives, etc.
01/31/2014.........Apples   (if   not   insurable)
03/01/2014.........Annual crops (Green Beans, Herbs, Squash, Carrots,
                                Peppers, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, etc)

2015 First NAP Application Closing Dates
01/01/2014.........Avocados   and   citrus

If you are not sure if your crop is coveraged through federal crop insurance
or NAP, please contact this office. 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.

2014 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.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates
May 31, 2013..............Container   Nursery
September 15, 2013....Strawberries planted 6/15/2012 through 8/15/2012
September 30, 2013....Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas trees)
December 15, 2013.....Perennial Forage, including ***Native Grass for grazing***
January 2, 2014...........Honey
January 15, 2014.........Strawberries planted 8/16/2012 through 11/15/2012
January 15, 2014.........Avocados, Blueberries, Lemons, Oranges, other Citrus, and sugar beets
March 15, 2014............Barley, Wheat, Oats for Grain or Forage Hay
March 15, 2014............Alfalfa seed, Almonds, Apples, Barley, Cherries, Figs, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines,
                                Pears,   Plums,   Walnuts
May 15, 2014...............Grapes
June 15, 2014...............Forage seeding (crops such as alfalfa, rye grass, sudan grown for seed)

July 15, 2014................Caneberries, Corn, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Rice, Safflower, CRP, Strawberries planted after 11/15/2013 and all other crops.

Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. Contact our Farm Loan Officer for rurther information and applications for the loan programs.

MicroLoan Program

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of $35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of $35,000 to pay for initial 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. Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact this office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Officer.

Farm   Storage   Facility   Loan   Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage structures, handling facilities and permanent drying and handling equipment. The new maximum FSFL loan amount is $500,000. Participants are now required to provide a 15 percent down payment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. A partial disbursement of up to 50% of loan funds will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. The FSFL loan must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL contact the local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov