

January 2014



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Monterey/Santa Cruz/San Mateo County News

Drought Assistance

Monterey County FSA Office
744 LaGuardia St., Suite A
Salinas, CA 93905
Phone: 831-424-7377 ext. 2
Fax: 831-424-7289

Farm Program Staff:
Vivian Soffa, CED
Tonya Linares, PT
Sandra Venegas, PT

Farm Loan Program Staff:
Amy Cody, FLO
Elsa Chavez, FLPT

COC Meeting:
April 16, 2014
9:00 am at Service Center
call to confirm

Emergency Grazing on CRP. Emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cropland in Monterey County has been approved effective February 1, 2014. Before you graze your CRP, contact the county office to file several forms and receive approval. This is a temporary grazing exemption and only effective for a maximum of 90 days. A revised conservation plan specifying the grazing dates, fields grazed and stocking rate must be approved prior to grazing. Grazing is not authorized during the primary nesting season between April 1 and July 1. A CRP rental payment reduction of 25% will be applied to approved contracts.

2013 NAP Coverage and Payments. 2013 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) software was recently re-opened and payments are currently being processed for eligible producers who purchased 2013 NAP coverage on crops affected by drought.

Prevented Plantings. If you have been prevented from planting your crop due to drought, please file a prevented planted claim within 15 days from the final planting date for your crop. The final planting date for Barley forage is January 31st and the final planting date for Mixed forage and Wheat forage is February 15th.

Emergency Loans. On January 15, 2014, Monterey County was declared a primary disaster due to drought. Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties have been named as contiguous disaster counties. Under this designation,

producers may apply for low interest emergency loans for help in recovering from production and physical losses due to extreme drought. Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for this assistance. The maximum emergency loan amount is \$500,000.

Other Assistance. Additional information about non-farm losses, such as business and residential, can be found at the U.S. Small Business Administration www.SBA.gov.

County Committee (COC) Election Results

Monterey County Committee elections took place on January 22, 2014. The election area this year was local Administrative Area (LAA#2) or central Monterey County. Betty Barrington was elected COC member for a three-year term effective February 1, 2014. Thanks to all of you who took the time to vote and/or nominate your agricultural representative.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

Producers planning to and/or currently participating in FSA programs 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. Due to the current drought conditions, if you are prevented from planting your crop, you must report your prevented planted acreage no later than 15 days after the final planting date of the crop. The final planting date for Barley forage is January 31st. The final planting date for Wheat forage and Mixed forage is February 15th. Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For all crops, including NAP crops, acreage reports should be certified by the applicable date below. If a crop has not been planted by the date below, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed. If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, 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 to support the acquisition. For more information, contact the county office.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

05/31/2013 Container Nursery
09/15/2013 Strawberries planted 6/15/2013 through 8/15/2013
09/30/2013 Value Loss Crops (aquaculture, flowers, Christmas Trees)
12/15/2013 Perennial forage, including native grass for grazing
01/02/2014 Honey
01/15/2014 Strawberries planted 8/16/2013 through 11/15/2013
01/15/2014 Avocados, Blueberries, Lemons, Oranges, other Citrus, Sugar Beets
03/15/2014 Barley, Wheat, Oats for Grain or Forage Hay
03/15/2014 Alfalfa seed, Apples, Cherries, Figs, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Nut Crops
05/15/2014 Grapes
06/15/2014 Forage for Seed: alfalfa, rye grass, sudan - grasses grown for seed
07/15/2014 Caneberries, Corn, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Rice, Safflower, CRP, Strawberries planted after 11/15/2013, and all other crops

Farm Loans

There are several financing options available through FSA loan programs, including but not limited

to, farm operating loans, microloans, emergency loans, youth loans and beginning farmer loans. For more information about our loan program, please contact our Farm Loan Department for an appointment.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

If you have purchased NAP coverage for your crop, you are required to file an accurate and timely crop acreage report on the crop(s) that you have insured, provide production records after your crop is harvested, and if applicable, file a notice of loss within 15 days of the date of your disaster event. Please refer to your form CCC-471 NAP Basic Provisions for details about what is and is not covered under your NAP policy. If you need a copy of these provisions, please contact this office. The NAP program provides catastrophic coverage against crop losses due to natural weather disasters, and generally covers eligible production losses greater than 50 percent, at 55% of the market price of the crop.

Other News

Monterey County Committee Alternate Member Jose (Tony) Serrano was recently appointed to the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. This Committee provides guidance to the Secretary on expanding opportunities that will help beginning farmers and ranchers succeed in agriculture. For more information, www.usda.gov, News Release No. 01224.13.

The 2014 California Small Farm Conference will be held in Rohnert Park, California March 9-11, 2014. For more information about field courses and workshops, go to www.californiafarmconference.com.

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