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- GOVDELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTLEED BUG
- LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY
- ACREAGE REPORTING DATES
- SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS
- LOAN PROGRAMS
- IMPORTANT DATES

San Luis Obispo County FSA Updates

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GOVDELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden. Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>

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LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on native pasture due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land. San Luis Obispo County livestock producers are eligible for drought assistance for crop year 2013 and 2014. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses are reminded that the signup deadline for the LFP program is January 30, 2015. Please contact the San Luis Obispo County FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll in the LFP program.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to the San Luis Obispo County FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law (losses due to coyotes are not covered). Signup deadline for this program is January 30, 2015.

For more information, livestock producers can review the LFP, ELAP and LIP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with the San Luis Obispo County FSA office to apply for these programs

ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact the San Luis Obispo County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for San Luis Obispo County:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 2: | Honey |
| January 15: | Citrus, Blueberries, Strawberries and Avocados |
| March 15: | Alfalfa Seed, Nut Crops, Fruit Tree Corps, Fall Seeded Grain Crops (Oats, Barley, Wheat & Mix Forage, etc.) |

May 15: Table Grapes and Wine or Juice Grapes

July 15: Vegetables, Melons, Onions, Tomatoes, Spring planted Alfalfa Seed, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Safflower, Dry Beans, CRP and any crop not reported earlier

July 31: Raisins

December 15: Perennial Forage (Native Grass) for the 2015 Crop Year

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the San Luis Obispo County FSA office.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

A REMINDER FOR ALL CALIFORNIA FARMERS AND RANCHERS Disaster Declaration Helps Ag Producers in All California Counties Eligible for USDA Low Interest Emergency Loans

(DAVIS, CA) May 13, 2014— All California counties are eligible as primary or contiguous counties for previously-announced 2014 drought disaster assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). All qualified farm operators are eligible to apply for low-interest FSA emergency loans.

This spring, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack designated 57 counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to the drought. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of the Secretarial disaster designation to apply for emergency loans. For most farmers in California, the eligibility period to apply for an Emergency loan extends to September 15, 2014.

“California farmers and ranchers have felt tremendous impacts from drought this season, with severe limitations on water supplies,” said FSA State Executive Director Val Dolcini. “Producers in these eligible counties can contact their nearest FSA office for details and to determine if they qualify.” The interest rate on emergency loans currently stands at 3.00 percent, providing a competitive, much-needed resource for producers hoping to recover from production and physical losses associated with natural disasters.

USDA's low-interest emergency loans have helped producers recover from losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters for decades and a strong farm safety net is important to sustain the success of American agriculture.

Additional resources for drought relief can be found by going to the USDA website at www.usda.gov/drought and the California Department of Agriculture website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought

LOAN PROGRAMS

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

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. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact San Luis Obispo County FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

YOUTH LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Interested individuals should contact the San Luis County FSA office for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 15, 2014	2013 NAP Production Due
August 1, 2014	Last Day to sign-up for ELAP (2012- 2013)
November 1, 2014	Last Day to sign-up for ELAP (2014)
January 30, 2015	Last Day to sign-up for LFP (2012- 2014) & LIP (2012 - 2014)

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).