

July 2014



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San Luis Obispo County

San Luis Obispo County FSA Office **AGI and the IRS**

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USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2014 Farm Bill is \$900,000 which applies to persons or legal entities. Participants in CCC Programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-941 to the FSA County Office to **avoid interruption** of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA offices.

eAuthentication Level 2 Account

Are you interested in finding out how much you get paid and when 24 hours a day. Signup today for an eAuthentication Level 2 Account at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html>. This will allow you to review your Customer Statement which contains private information about your business with the USDA. The USDA Customer Service Statement combines a wide range of information on your USDA services and program activity in a single report available online through the web. You can access the secure, confidential report online, any place any time. You are able to view or print the report. To protect your identity, The Customer Statement does not show your Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification. In the future, your USDA ID will enable you to share your Customer Statement information with anyone you choose without the risks associated with sharing your Social Security Number or Taxpayer

Identification. In order to have an active account you must sign up and have a Local Registration Authority (LRA) a USDA employee verify your identify.

Direct Deposit Mandatory

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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).