

July 2013



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Sonoma-Marín County FSA Updates

You may have heard about the recent implementation of our new large-scale technology called MIDAS. We have experienced a drop in performance at the outset, we want to ensure that this period is as brief as possible, and that any problems are identified and addressed at once. The FSA National Office is working closely with the MIDAS technical team to assess and address these issues and to provide guidance to system users.

An analogy would be cars on an eight-lane highway, bottle-necked into one lane, while the other seven lanes are available for use. With MIDAS, only one-eighth of the server capacity is being effectively utilized, creating backlogs in the system and unacceptable performance. The changes made this past weekend has modified how the activity load is distributed across the available capacity, with more changes on the way that will eventually bring system performance into compliance with our business needs.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding in any delays in processing farm records and mapping requirements, which is required for most programs.

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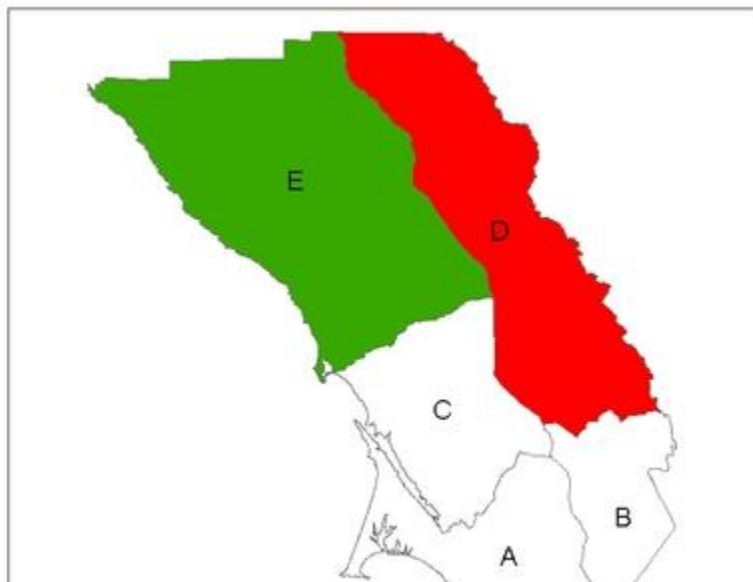
COC Nomination Deadline Aug. 1

The election of agricultural producers to 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. Nomination forms are available at the county office or call for a copy to be mailed or faxed to you. Copies can also be sent by email. Send request to lisa.velasquez@usda.gov

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. For more information contact your local FSA office.



Filing for NAP Losses

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Crop Certification

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. 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, call your FSA County Office for information.

Deadlines: DCP by Aug. 2

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 deadline for ACRE was June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013. [Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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