

AUGUST 2014



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Sonoma-Marín County FSA Updates

2012 SURE Program-Deadline August 29, 2014.

USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR TURNING BIOMASS MATERIAL INTO ENERGY

KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

USDA KICKS OFF THE 2014 "FEDS FEED FAMILIES" NATIONWIDE FOOD DRIVE

**Sonoma/Marin County
FSA Office**

NEW ADDRESS!!!

5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Ste
100 Petaluma, CA 94954

Phone: 707-664-8593

Fax: 707-794-7902

County Executive Director:
Lisa V. Velasquez

Farm Loan Officer:
Karri Bartolomei

Program Technician:

Cecilia Medina

**Signup for the SURE Program for
2012 crop losses began May 5, 2014,
and end August 29, 2014.**

USDA ANNOUNCES NEW SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

*Department Implementing New Farm Bill Programs, Unveiling New Centralized
Online Resource to Support Next Generation of Farmers*

USDA has announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA also unveiled www.USDA.gov/newfarmers, a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning

Michelle Staub

farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

Next County Committee

Meeting Date: September 30,
2014 at 10:00 am

USDA's www.usda.gov/newfarmers has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

Today's policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

- Eliminating payment reductions under the CRP
- Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under Emergency Assistance for [Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#).

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers – including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees, and other benefits.

Additional information about USDA actions in support of beginning farmers and ranchers is available [here](#).

USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR TURNING BIOMASS MATERIAL INTO ENERGY

Farm Bill Implementation Continues as Energy Facilities Can Now Apply for Renewed Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin accepting applications June 16 from energy facilities interested in receiving forest or agricultural residues to generate clean energy. The support comes through the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

BCAP provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who establish and maintain new crops of energy biomass, or who harvest and deliver forest or agricultural residues to a qualifying energy facility. Of the total \$25 million per year authorized for BCAP, the 2014 Farm Bill provides up to 50 percent (\$12.5 million) each year for matching payments for the harvest and transportation of biomass residues. BCAP matching payments will resume this summer, while crop incentives will begin in 2015. Some matching payments will support the removal of dead or diseased trees from National Forests and Bureau of Land Management public lands. This will be turned into renewable energy while reducing the risk of forest fire. Agriculture residues, such as corn cobs and stalks, also may qualify as energy-producing feedstock.

With the 2014 Farm Bill requiring several regulatory updates to BCAP, the resumption of payments for

starting and maintaining new sources of biomass (Project Areas) has been deferred until a later date when the regulatory updates occur.

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers BCAP, will begin accepting applications from biomass conversion facilities beginning June 16, 2014, through July 14, 2014. Information on funding availability can be found in the *Federal Register* notice at <http://go.usa.gov/8FSH>. For more details on applications and deadlines on BCAP, visit a local FSA county office or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap.

KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD

The *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* (KYF2) initiative is a USDA-wide effort focused on strengthening local and regional food systems.

In recent years, consumers have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally-produced foods and many farmers and ranchers followed the trend and offer fresh foods through local markets.

USDA followed suit, developing KYF2, which helps connect consumers with producers in their community. USDA offers a wide range of programs that can assist farmers, ranchers, businesses, communities and individuals. To learn more about grants, loans and support that is available, visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANTS.

These USDA programs stimulate economic development in agricultural communities, foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers, promote locally and regionally grown and processed foods, cultivate healthy eating habits and educated consumers, expand access to affordable fresh and local food and develop a connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

For more information on KYF2, visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015. Sonoma and Marin Counties became eligible in 2013 on June 25th, 2013, and became eligible in 2014 on January 14, 2014. Inventory numbers near the eligibility dates are needed as well as sold animals due to the drought in 2013 and

2014. Sold animals in 2012 will also be considered.

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. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015. *Only deaths by anthrax is authorized under drought conditions.* **Specific documentation is required to support animal deaths, please call for details on documentation.**

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, such as *** water hauling under D3 designation.** 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 their local FSA office by August 15, 2014. **For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.**

*** WATER HAULING** {Both Sonoma and Marin Counties for 2014 were designated D3. However, for 2012 / 2013 program year was designated a D2, therefore Sonoma and Marin Counties are not eligible for water hauling in 2012 / 2013. }

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

DID YOU FILE FOR 2014 NAP LOSSES?

This is required to initiate a field visit and record evidence of your individual loss.

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.** 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.

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. **To ensure timely filed Notice Of Loss, do so before September 30, 2014.**

Notice of Losses can be filed by email, fax, or telephone call. Phone- 707-664-8593, Fax 707-794-7902, email to lisa.velasquez@ca.usda.gov or ana.medina@ca.usda.gov .

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

USDA KICKS OFF THE 2014 "FEDS FEED FAMILIES" NATIONWIDE FOOD DRIVE

USDA kicked off the 6th annual Feds Feed Families Campaign on June 2, 2014.

The food drive is an annual event in which Federal employees, nationwide, collect food for distribution by food banks, food pantries, and shelters.

The Feds Feed Families program started in 2009. The 2014 food drive officially began on June 2 and will run through August 27.

All Federal agencies across the country participate in the campaign and Federal employees are asked to donate non-perishable food items throughout the summer. Donations are given to local food banks across the country – having a positive impact to help food banks address food insecurity. Secretary Vilsack noted that the latest USDA estimates show that in 2012, food insecurity affected 14.5 percent of American households at some point.

If you are interested in making a donation to the annual "Feds Feed Families" Food Drive, please contact your local USDA Service Center at **707-664-8593**.

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).