

November 2012



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Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Updates

Office Location

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E

Modesto, CA 95358

Phone (209) 491-9320 ext 2

Fax (209) 491-9331

Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee (COC)

Dave Wheeler, Chairperson

Larry Byrd, Vice Chair

Stuart Crook, Member

Dale Matney, Member

Miguel Garcia, Advisor

NAP Coverage Deadlines

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop, by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance, where Federal crop insurance is not available. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who purchased coverage for 2012 NAP crops can choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2013 if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who do not already have coverage may purchase insurance by the applicable closing dates as well. **2013 NAP application closing dates are as follows:**

2013 NAP Coverage Crops	Closing Dates
Forage Crops/Hay/Native Rangeland (Intended use of Grazing & Forage, i.e. Oats, Wheat & Mixed Forage) Onions Honey	12/1/2012
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops (i.e. Kiwi, Cane berries) Strawberries	12/15/2012
2014 Avocados & Citrus	1/1/2013

As a reminder, producers who purchase NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

Next COC Meeting:

December 6, 2012

- Notify our office within 15 days of a qualifying loss or within 15 days of the loss being apparent.
- Provide proof of harvested production each year using acceptable

Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED

Carmen Cardenas, PT

Maria Juárez, PT

Latisha Kahn, PT

Joni Christensen, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Suzie Wilson, FLM

Deanna Martin, FLO

Amy Cody, FLO

Alma Jaquez, PT

Lupe Mims, PT

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA office.

For a list of local offices, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



2012 DCP Payments

2012 Direct & Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) direct payments have been recently issued. Payments were issued

methods, such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc.

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide proof of harvested production each year using acceptable methods, such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- Timely file acreage reports

If you would like more information regarding NAP coverage, please contact Joni Christensen at ext 124.



2012 Grazing Losses for Stanislaus & Tuolumne County

For those producers who purchased 2012 NAP coverage for Native Grass, loss percentages in excess of 50% have been established in our Counties due to the drought conditions. As a reminder, because NAP covers only catastrophic losses, it is limited to compensate disasters that exceed a 50% loss of production at 55% of the price (the producer must absorb the first 50% of the loss). This loss calculation also takes into account all grazed acreage that is administered within the County for which coverage is purchased. **If you believe you purchased 2012 NAP coverage, and have not yet been in contact with Joni Christensen, please contact her at ext 124 to start the NAP loss application process.** If you missed purchasing 2012 coverage, now is the time to consider NAP coverage for 2013 (see article about 2013 NAP coverage deadlines for further details).

NEW! 2013 Crop Reporting Dates

Please note that crop reporting dates have changed for the 2013 year and the first few deadlines are fast approaching. The New 2013 crop reporting deadlines are listed below:

via direct deposit into your bank account unless previous arrangements were made by submitting a hardship waiver. If you have not received your payment(s) this could be because your file may be missing required information. Please contact Maria Juarez at ext 118 or Carmen Cardenas at ext 107 if you have not received your payment(s) or if you have specific questions in regard to your 2012 payment(s).



MILC Rate for September 2012

Crop	Practice/Final Plant Dates	Reporting Deadlines
Perennial Forage (Alfalfa), Native Grass & Clover		December 15, 2012
Honey		January 2, 2013
Strawberries	8/16 – 11/15	January 15, 2013
Wheat	Fall or Spring Seeded	March 15, 2013
Barley & Oats	Fall Seeded	March 15, 2013
	Spring Seeded	July 15, 2013
Almonds, Walnuts, Apples, Cherries, Apricots, Peaches		March 15, 2013
Grapes & Table Grapes		May 15, 2013
Corn, Dry Beans, Rice, Onions & Tomatoes		July 15, 2013

FSA was notified today that there is no rate for September 2012. If you have any questions regarding the MILC program, please contact Maria Juarez at ext 118.

Please contact our office at ext 2, if you have any questions regarding crops that may not be listed or with general questions about the new deadlines.

Vote for County Committee



Ballots for this year's County Committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2012. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **December 3, 2012**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3, 2012.

This year, we are electing LAA # 2 & LAA # 4; descriptions are as follows:

LAA # 2 – Central Stanislaus County including Hickman, Denair, Hughson, Keyes and parts of Turlock, Ceres & Modesto.

LAA # 4 - All of Tuolumne County

Below is a chance to get to know the candidates:

David Wheeler (LAA #2) – Raised in Stanislaus County and grew up with a constant agricultural influence though being involved in his family's farming operation. David is a fourth generation farmer with 25+ years of farming experience. His farming and crop knowledge includes producing hay, tree and row crops throughout San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties. David is a member of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and serves

as a volunteer firefighter. He believes that it is of the utmost importance that local farmers are involved in, and kept abreast of, National level agricultural regulations and innovations. He believes that being informed gives farmers a chance to influence decisions in a way that will benefit the whole farming community. David currently serves as the Chairperson of the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Committee (COC) and understands the important role the COC plays. He knows that by his involvement in the COC, he can help his fellow farmers in need by being an avenue for their opinions and voices to be heard.

Miguel Garcia (LAA #2) – Raised mostly in Stanislaus County, but his family followed the crop harvest from the Central Valley to Oregon where they picked cherries and then returned to the Modesto area for peach, grape & almond harvesting. Miguel's first experience in farming was hand-picking grapes at the age of 11; since then working in agriculture has become his life's work. He started a farm labor contracting business in 1982 and began building an invaluable network with farmers from surrounding areas. In the late 1980's, Miguel began farming on his own by leasing his first vineyard. Through the years, his business has expanded to operating and managing various size farms; specializing in grapes, organic cherries, almonds, peaches, apples and various other crops. He has learned valuable farming practices from consultants with UC Davis Ag Extension and many local farmers, building his knowledge of the industry. He is a member of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, AgSafe and California Wine Growers Association; he is also certified by Lodi Vintner Rules (agency dedicated to sustainable wine grape growing). Miguel feels that the broad experience he has gained over his 30+ years in the agriculture industry has given him the necessary tools to fairly represent his fellow farmers and advocate for their beliefs.

Stuart Crook (LAA #4) – Raised in the Groveland area of Tuolumne County and resides there to this day. Stuart's family has been producing beef cattle since 1950, and he began helping on the ranch at a young age. Stuart is a member of the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, Tuolumne County Farm Bureau (was director from 1998 to 2011; now participates as a member), and is the Director of the Tuolumne County Cattlemen's Association board. Stuart decided to run for his initial term on the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Committee (COC) because he understands that agriculture is so important to the growth of our Country and was compelled to see that agricultural needs in his community be addressed. Since being elected to the COC in 2009, he has found the different perspectives of the committee members very interesting and enjoys constantly growing in his knowledge of different crops and farming practices. Stuart is glad to be part of providing assistance to producers who have had a difficult year.

Election Dates to Remember:

- **Nov. 5, 2012** - Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters
- **Dec. 3, 2012** - Ballots must be received by the county office or postmarked
- **Jan. 1, 2013** - The newly elected county committee member will take office

PLEASE REMEMBER TO

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AND VOTE!

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Ranchers Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers

and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).