

January 2013



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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

Next COC Meeting:

January 31, 2013

County Committee Election Results Are In!

The Stanislaus-Tuolumne FSA County Committee & Staff would like to congratulate COC Members Dave Wheeler & Stuart Crook for their re-election to the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County Committee! Members like Dave & Stuart are invaluable contributors to the County Committee & its process!

Dave was elected to represent farmers from LAA #2 which covers Central Stanislaus County including the towns of Hickman, Denair, Hughson, Keyes and parts of Turlock, Ceres & Modesto. Miguel Garcia will serve as first alternate.

Stuart was elected to represent farmers from LAA #4 which covers all of Tuolumne County.

They will each serve a 3 year term beginning January 2013.

FSA appreciates all of the voters who took the time to complete the election ballot and those producers willing to be nominated. The county committee system works only because of your participation!

2011 SURE Disaster Program Open

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) is now open for the 2011 Crop Year! SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred Oct. 1, 2010 through Sept. 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to have obtained crop insurance on **all** crops of economic significance in all counties; or, if crop insurance is not available, to have purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crops grown.

Although the program signup period is open, we are currently awaiting crop and yield information required to process applications. For this reason, if you are interested in applying, please contact our office at (209) 491-9320 ext 2 and we will make sure you are contacted when we are able to process applications.

NEW Acreage Reporting Dates

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

Please note that crop reporting dates have changed for the 2013 year. The following are the new deadline dates for reporting crops:

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

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



Crop certifications must be date-stamped by the county office or post-marked by the deadline date to be considered timely filed. However, because of the significant changes in some crop reporting dates for 2013, late-filed fees will not be charged through June 30, 2013 (**this is understood to be a one-time exception only**). Participation in most USDA programs has evolved to require annual acreage reports be on file; as we await a new/renewed Farm Bill, timely filing acreage reports is advisable.

If you have any questions regarding the new deadlines or to report your crops, please contact our office at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.

Emergency Farm Loans (EM)

NEW Microloans!

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a new program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can provide emergency loans to eligible producers to help recover from production and physical losses due to certain disasters. **Note- all applicants must meet specific eligibility requirements and qualifying losses must be suffered to be considered for an EM loans.** Production losses of 30% or more must be suffered and physical losses must be directly attributed to the stated disaster designation. There are outstanding disaster declarations at this time; a summary has been provided below:

farm operations. The program will offer more flexible access to credit and will serve as an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations. Microloans (ML) can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the Operating Loan (OL) program. Also the application process for microloans will be simpler.

To obtain additional information on the new microloan program, please contact the Farm Loan Staff at (209) 491-9320 ext 2 or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

The Staff at the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA office would like to wish everyone a Happy & Prosperous New Year!



Stanislaus-Tuolumne County:

S3379 Drought 1/1/12 and continuing

S3320 Hail, rain and cold temperatures 4/11/12- 4/13/12

S3268 Drought beginning 2/12/12

Stanislaus County Only:

S3248 Drought covering 2012 crop year

Tuolumne County Only:

S3351 Drought 6/26/12-8/20/2012

All declarations have a deadline to apply for EM loan assistance. Further information can be obtained regarding EM loans by contacting the Farm Loan Staff at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Notice to Customers Providing Checks in Person or by Mail

Starting in 2013 the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA will be changing to an automated collections process using an electronic funds transfer system.

What this means for you-

Conversion of Checks: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic funds transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic funds transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day you make your payment.

Insufficient Funds: The electronic funds transfer from your account can occur faster than a check is normally processed. Do not present a check to the agency unless there are sufficient funds available in your checking account. If the electronic funds transfer cannot be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer up to two more times.

Authorization: By presenting your check to the agency you authorize the conversion of your check into an electronic funds transfer. If the electronic funds transfer cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy of your original check.

Privacy Act – A Privacy Act Statement required by 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3) stating our authority for soliciting and collecting the information from your check, and explaining the purposes and routine uses which will be made of your check information, is available from our internet site (<http://www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet/index.html>) or call toll free (1-866-945-7920) to obtain a copy by mail. Furnishing the check information is voluntary, but a decision not to do so may require you to make payment by some other method.

If you have any questions regarding this new process, please contact Latisha Kahn at (209) 491-9320 ext 109.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Period

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until 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. USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to inform those who may be eligible for this program.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or by visiting the website www.farmerclaims.gov.

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).