

March 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) 491-9320

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:

December 6, 2012

Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED
Carmen Cardenas, PT
Maria Juárez, PT
Latisha Kahn, PT
Joni Christensen, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Amy Cody, Acting FLM
Deanna Martin, 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

IMPORTANT MILC Program Information

All **Milk Income Loss Contact (MILC)** participants will need to file eligibility documents before any payments for FY 2013 can be issued. This information includes filing the following applicable forms:

- CCC-933, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information Form(s)
- AD-1026, Highly Erodible/Wetland Certification Form(s)
- CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan

Any changes to the dairy operation must be reported, including relocation of operation, members & share percentages, and bank account information.

To complete 2013 eligibility requirements or to enroll a new dairy operation into the MILC program, contact Maria Juarez at (209) 491-9320 ext 118.

2013 DCP Enrollment

The 2013 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment period opened February 19, 2013 and will close August 2, 2013. Currently, the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Office is contacting producers to complete payment eligibility and contract information. Please be prepared to provide the following information to County Office Staff:

- updated partnership papers/operating agreements including members & share changes
- bank account information, if changed
- updated/new lease agreements or grant deeds for all property that is operated in Stanislaus or Tuolumne County

****Please be on the lookout for correspondence from our office regarding DCP enrollment.**

If you have any questions about the DCP program or enrollment process, please contact Maria Juarez or Carmen Cardenas at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.



2013 ACRE Enrollment

The 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) enrollment period opened February 19, 2013 and will close June 3, 2013. As an alternative to DCP, the ACRE program provides eligible producers a State-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year State Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average market price. In the past, enrollment in ACRE was considered a permanent election. However, 2013 program provisions allow a producer who previously elected ACRE to return to DCP.

Dates to Remember

March 15, 2013- Final day to timely certify wheat, barley, oats & all tree crops for 2013

March 28, 2013- Next County Committee Meeting

May 15, 2013- Final day to timely certify grapes & table grapes for 2013

June 3, 2013- Deadline to enroll in 2013 ACRE program

June 7, 2013- Deadline to apply for 2011 SURE benefits

July 15, 2013- Final day to timely certify corn, beans, tomatoes, onions & rice crops for 2013

August 2, 2013 – Deadline to enroll in 2013 DCP program

Reminder for 2013 NAP Participants

2012 and prior years' production is due for all forage (oats, wheat, mixed forage, etc) and tree (kiwifruit, etc) crops covered under the 2013 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) by **March 15, 2013**.

Please contact Joni Christensen at (209) 491-9320 ext 124 for more information.

ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates. ACRE is based on yields and market prices, so if crop revenues are predicted to drop for the 2013 crop year (for your respective crops), this program may be beneficial. ACRE also pays based on what is planted on the farm. Crops eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans) & rice.

If you have any questions about the ACRE program or enrollment process, please contact Maria Juarez or Carmen Cardenas at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.

Over-The-Counter Check Conversion

Effective immediately, the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Office will be using a new system to process checks/payments received. When a check is provided as payment, you authorize FSA staff to either use the 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 using the 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.

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

2011 SURE Program Open

The **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)** Program continues to be available for producers who have suffered crop losses during the 2011 crop year due to natural, weather-related disasters. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties; or, if crop insurance is not available, to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crops grown. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, including crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments for all acreage farmed; this program is not crop specific. The deadline to apply for 2011 SURE benefits is June 7, 2013.

For more information and/or to see if you qualify, please contact Joni Christensen at (209) 491-9320 ext 124.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims – Closing Soon

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).



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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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