

**August 2013**



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## **Tulare County FSA Updates**

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### **Tulare County FSA Office DCP Deadline**

3530 W Orchard Ct  
Visalia, CA 93277-7055

Phone: 559-734-8732 Ext. 2  
Fax: 559-732-2805

**County Committee:**

Mark Heuer  
Craig Ainley  
Alex Garcia  
Robert Sepeda -Advisor

**Program Technicians:**

Theresa Barajas PT  
Slade Childers, FL PT  
Becky Garcia, PT  
Pat Miller, FLO  
Yvonne Newman, PT  
Danielle Parreira, PT  
James Smith, COT  
Kelly Solis, PT  
Lorraine Wilson, PT

**County Executive Director**

Kaye Rydberg

**Farm Loan Manager:**

Tom Roberts  
Phone: 559-734-8732

**Next County Committee**

**Meeting:** October 24, 2013 at  
9:00 AM (This is a tentative  
date)

The sign-up period for DCP has been extended and is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up before the extended Sept. 16, 2013, deadline.

For an appointment or more information, please call the office at 559-734-8732 Ext. 2.

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### **NAP Losses**

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.

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### **Adjusted Gross Income**

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Starting with 2012, a combined overall income exceeding \$1 million excludes participation in DCP or ACRE.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit

form CCC-933 to their our FSA Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

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## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact our FSA office or our NRCS office at 559-734-8732. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation), and information on NRCS programs can be found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

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## Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process that helps new and smaller producers as well as specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact our office to setup an appointment with an FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer.

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## Selected Interest Rates for August 2013

Farm operating Loans - Direct 1.50%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 3.625%

Emergency Loans - 2.50%

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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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