

September 2013



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## Tulare County FSA Updates

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### Tulare County FSA Office 2013 County Committee Elections

3530 W. Orchard Ct.  
Visalia, CA 93277-7055

Phone: 559-734-8732  
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**County Executive Director:**  
Kaye Rydberg

**Program Technicians:**  
Theresa Barajas, PT  
Slade Childers, FLPT  
Becky Garcia, CPT  
Pat Miller, FLO  
Yvonne Newman, PT  
Danielle Parreira, PT  
Kelly Solis, PT  
Lorraine Wilson, PT

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Tom Roberts  
Phone: 559-734-8732

**Next County Committee Meeting: Tentative**

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

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### Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program

October, 24, 2013 at 9:00 AM on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved. Give our office a call if you have questions.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage structures, handling facilities and permanent drying and handling equipment.

The new maximum FSFL loan amount is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a 15 percent down payment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

A partial disbursement of up to 50% of loan funds will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. The FSFL loan must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL contact our Farm Program staff or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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## Dates to Remember

**September 16** - DCP Enrollment Deadline

**September 30** - Successor in Interest Report Deadline

**October 14** - Columbus Day Office Closed

**November 4** - COC Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters

**November 11** - Veterans Day Office Closed

**November 28** - Thanksgiving Day Office Closed

**December 2** - Last Day to Return COC Ballots

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## **Selected Interest Rates For September 2013**

Farm Operating Loans - Direct - 1.875%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loans:

2.000 % for Farm Storage Facility Loans with 7 Yrs loan terms

2.625 % for Farm Storage Facility Loans with 10 Yrs loan terms

2.875% for Farm Storage Facility Loans with 12 Yrs loan terms

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