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July 2014

USDA e-News

California Edition



United States Department of Agriculture

Welcome to USDA e-News, California Edition, a multi-agency newsletter providing California's producers and other interested parties with current information.

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Featured Item

U.S. Agriculture Deputy Secretary announced the implementation of new measures to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

The new website: [USDA New Farmers](#) will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

Updates

NASS Participates in Advisory Meeting on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

USDA NASS Agricultural Statistics staff participated in the meeting of the USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Davis, CA on June 23-24. The Committee, established in 1998, advises the Secretary on providing financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers, methods of encouraging State partnerships that enhance opportunities for new farmers and ranchers and methods to create new farming or ranching opportunities. NASS has prepared information from the 2012 Census of Agriculture that displays characteristics of new and beginning farmers and ranchers which is available at: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Highlights/Highlights_Beginning_Farmers.pdf

California State and County Census Information Available Online

Significant interest continues for the results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture. *State and County Profiles* for California are available online at:

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/California/

The profiles contain the latest Census data at the state and county levels on a range of topics, including value of production, demographics, traditional and specialty crops. The county level data is also available for unique queries and downloads from Quick Stats 2.0, a free online database at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>. If you have any questions regarding the Census data or tools, please contact the NASS Pacific Regional Office at 916-498-5161.

Sales Closing Date Nears for Crop Insurance Programs

Sales closing dates for several crop insurance programs are almost here. Please make sure to sign up, review, or change your crop policy before these dates have passed. The last day to buy or change your policy for Forage Seeding and Raisins is **July 31, 2014**. For more information contact your agent or you can find an agent on the [RMA website](#).

FSA Now Accepting Nominations for Committee Member Election

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun to solicit and accept nominations to run and serve on the Agency's County or Area Committees. Farmers, ranchers and program participants are eligible to serve. Nominations will be accepted through **August 1, 2014**. More information and the nomination form, FSA-669A, can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or from your local FSA office.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) recorded webinars are available at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateD&rightNav1=FruitandVegetableWebinars&topNav=&leftNav=&page=NewsArticlePage3&resultType=>

- The draft Request for Applications for the organic cost share programs (provided for in the 2014 Farm Bill) is in clearance. Once approved and posted, State Departments of Agriculture will be able to apply for cost share funds to reimburse organic producers and handlers for part of the costs of organic certification. All 50 States and U.S. territories will be eligible to participate in the program, which provides \$11.5 million per year. Cost share funds availability will be announced through the USDA Organic Insider and through grants.gov.
- The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) plans to soft launch the Country of Origin Labeling COOL FACTS Portal to State users. Significant enhancements to the COOL FACTS database have been made to reflect new meat labeling requirements and new COOL business rules, such as the retailer compliance rating criteria, non-compliance codes for meat muscle cut labeling, and recordkeeping management.

Funding Opportunities

Farm Service Agency Offers Several Disaster Assistance Programs

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a variety of programs available to help farmers and ranchers impacted by disasters, including the state's drought. The sign-up for all the Livestock Disaster Programs started on **April 15, 2014**. Click on the programs below for additional details, or visit the FSA Disaster Assistance Program Complete details on FSA Disaster Assistance can be found at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>.

- [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire with retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. **Sign-up ends on January 30, 2015.**
- [Livestock Indemnity Payments \(LIP\)](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators with retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. **Sign-up ends on January 30, 2015.**
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish \(ELAP\)](#) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. **For program years 2012 and 2013 sign-up ends on August 1, 2014. For program year 2014, sign-up ends on November 1, 2014.**
- [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters with retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. **Sign-up ends on January 30, 2015.**
- [Farm Storage Facility Loan Program \(FSFL\)](#) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The program was enhanced to include 23 new categories of eligible equipment for fruit and vegetable producers, and makes it easier for farmers and ranchers around the country to finance the equipment they need to grow and expand. The maximum loan amount is \$500,000.

USDA Rural Development – Multi-Family Housing Funding Opportunities:

- USDA is seeking applications for grants to preserve and repair housing for very-low- and low-income families living in rural areas through the Housing Preservation Grant Program (HPG 533) Notice of Funding Availability published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2014. The application filing deadline is July 28, 2014. Notice of Funding Availability published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2014. The application filing deadline is July 28, 2014. Grants are provided to qualified organizations so they can help rural homeowners and rental housing owners make repairs and improvements. These grants can be used for a variety of needs, such as repairs to resolve health or safety issues

or for energy-efficiency improvements to reduce utility costs.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-06-11/pdf/2014-13631.pdf>

- USDA Rural Development also announced the availability of more than \$33 million to provide safe and affordable housing for farmworkers and their families through the Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program (Section 514/516). Notice of Funding Availability published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2014. The pre-application filing deadline is September 2, 2014. Loans and/or grants up to \$3,000,000 are provided to eligible farmers, farmers associations, family farm corporations, Indian tribes, non-profit organizations, public agencies and farmworker associations to develop or improve multi-family housing facilities for farmworkers and their families. Funds also can be used to build, repair or improve adjoining facilities such as playgrounds, spaces for child care, computer rooms and community centers. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-07-01/pdf/2014-15358.pdf>
- For additional information, please contact Debra Moretton, Multi-Family Housing Program Specialist, at 530-885-6505, ext. 109 or debra.moretton@ca.usda.gov

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Available Soon

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to support agriculture producers and energy facilities working to use renewable biomass materials to create clean energy through the [Biomass Crop Assistance Program \(BCAP\)](#). BCAP was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and provides \$25 million annually for the program. Between 10-50 % of the total funding must be used for harvest and transportation of biomass residues. Traditional food and feed crops are ineligible for assistance. On June 16, 2014 FSA began accepting application from the energy facilities interested in receiving forest or agricultural residues to generate clean energy. The application deadline for energy facilities is July 14, 2014. Information on funding availability can be found in the [Federal Register notice by clicking here](#). For more details on applications and deadlines on BCAP, visit a local FSA county office or go online to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap>.

Reports and Publications

NASS Reports

[Field Crop Acreage and Grain Stocks Report](#) (07/08/2014)

[Crop Production](#) (07/11/2014)

[Fruit & Nut Review](#) (07/18/2014)

[Field Crop Review](#) (07/18/2014)

[Poultry Report](#) (07/31/2014)

[Livestock Review](#) (07/31/2014)

[Olive Inventory](#) 07/31/2014)

[Livestock Review](#) (07/31/2014)

Other Activities & Events

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Intertribal Agriculture Council will be hosting two 2014 Farm Bill Information and Tribal Feedback Sessions on July 16, 2014, for Tribes in Southern California, and July 18, 2014, for those in Northern California.

Wed., July 16, 2014, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Pala Tribal Headquarters (Southern California).

Fri., July 18, 2014, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the USDA Headquarters in Davis, with live streaming locations in Alturas, Fresno, and Red Bluff (Northern California). Travel scholarships are available for Tribal personnel. Please contact Keir Johnson with the IAC Pacific Region at keir@indianaglink.com or (916) 995-3209.

About Us

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- [Find a Program](#)

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Risk Management Agency (RMA)

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Rural Development (RD)

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Contact Us

If you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters or if you have relevant information for California producers that you want to include in a future issue of this newsletter, please email one of the contacts listed below. Please be advised that not all activities may be published.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Rose Aguayo, Assistant Regional Director
559-487-5901

Rose.Aguayo@ams.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Val Dolcini, State Executive Director
530-792-5520

Val.Dolcini@ca.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Luana Kiger, Special Assistant
530-792-5661

Luana.Kiger@ca.usda.gov

Reina Rogers, American Indian Liaison
530-283-7513

Reina.Rogers@ca.usda.gov

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Kelly Krug, Deputy Director
916-498-5161 Ext 106

Kelly.Krug@nass.usda.gov

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Dick Mansfield, Risk Management Education & Outreach Coordinator
530-792-5878

Richard.Mansfield@rma.usda.gov

Rural Development (RD)

Karen Firestein, Business & Cooperative Programs Specialist
530-792-5829

Karen.Firestein@ca.usda.gov

Janice Waddell, Native American Coordinator
530-792-5810

Janice.Waddell@ca.usda.gov

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