

September 2015

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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Updates

Energy Development and Demonstration

The California Energy Commission plans to host a series of regional workshops to highlight opportunities for local community-scale renewable energy development and demonstration. Recent projects will serve as showcases for interested parties to leverage and/or replicate. In addition, the workshops will present resources and information to help communities pursue local renewables. NRCS and Rural Development will be presenting at these workshops that serve farmers and rural communities. Locations and dates of workshops will be posted at http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/notices/2015-08-31_RESCO_Workshops_Flyer.pdf. Contact Michael Sokol at msokol@energy.state.ca.us or 916-327-1416.

Application Closing Dates Nears for 2016 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

2016 NAP Application Closing dates for several crops are fast approaching. Please make sure to file an Application for Coverage and pay the service fee for your crop policy before these dates have passed. **October 1, 2015** is the last day to buy coverage for fall planted garlic, onions and strawberries. For more information, please contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

USDA Expands Crop Insurance Options for Fruit and Nut Producers

The Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and the Actual Production History (APH) Yield Exclusion are now available to cover fresh fruit and nuts in select counties beginning with the 2016 crop year. SCO is an area-based policy endorsement that can be purchased to supplement an underlying crop insurance policy. It covers a portion of losses not covered by the same crop's underlying policy. The APH Yield Exclusion allows farmers, with qualifying crops in eligible counties, to exclude low yields in exceptionally bad years (such as a year in which a natural disaster or other extreme weather occurs) from their production history when calculating yields used to establish their crop insurance coverage. The [Crop Insurance Decision Tool](#) and the [SCO/APH Yield Exclusion mapping tool](#) provide farmers with information on APH Yield Exclusion and SCO eligible crops, crop years, and counties where they may elect the programs. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the Risk Management Agency's [agent locator](#). Growers can use the agency's [cost estimator](#) to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online.

Funding Opportunities

Home Loans Available for Rural Buyers

USDA Rural Development is offering affordable mortgages for low-income homebuyers in rural California through the agency's [Single Family Housing Direct Home Loan Program](#). Highlights of the program include no down payment, no mortgage insurance, and interest rates as low as one percent for eligible buyers. Homes must be located in [rural areas](#), generally communities of 35,000 or less, and must be modest in size. Loan limits will vary by location, as will income limits. Interested applicants in California can find more information, including a local office, online at www.rd.usda.gov/ca.

NASS Reports

- [Crop Production](#) (9/11/15)
- [Fruit and Nut Review](#) (9/17/15)
- [Field Crop Review](#) (9/17/15)
- [Livestock Review](#) (9/28/15)
- [Poultry Report](#) (9/29/15)

About Us

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

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Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

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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.

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