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News Release

For Immediate Release

Livestock Producers Affected by Severe Drought Urged to Keep Good Records

DAVIS, CA - Mar. 6, 2014 — Val Dolcini, California State Executive Director for U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), today repeated his appeal to livestock producers affected by California's drought to keep thorough records. This includes livestock and feed losses, and any additional expenses that are a result of losses to purchased forage or feed stuff.

"The 2014 Farm Bill provides a strong farm safety net to help ranchers during these difficult times," said Dolcini. "We'll provide producers with information on new program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available. In the meantime, I urge producers to keep thorough records. We know this disaster has caused serious economic hardships for our livestock producers and we'll do all we can to assist in their recovery."

In addition to the drought, there are a variety of other weather disasters from fires and floods to unexpected freezes. Each event causes economic consequences for farmers and ranchers throughout California. FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures;
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed;
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records;
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters; and
- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca> or an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans. For information about USDA's Farm Bill implementation plan, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

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