

May 2016

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.

In this issue: [Updates](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#) | [Reports & Publications](#)
[Other Activities & Events](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Updates

Sales Closing Date Nears for Crop Insurance Programs

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers that the final dates to apply for crop insurance are fast approaching. **May 31, 2016**, is the last day to buy or change your policy for **Potatoes**. Producers need to purchase, review, or modify their crop insurance policies before these sales closing dates have passed. Crop insurance provides protection against crop production losses due to natural perils such as drought, hail, and excessive moisture. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. In order to receive premium subsidies, the insured must certify that they meet [Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation](#) requirements (AD-1026) with Farm Service Agency (FSA). For more information contact your agent or you can find an agent online at the RMA [Agent Locator](#).

Deadline Approaching for Conservation Compliance

The deadline to have a signed Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file with FSA is **June 1, 2016**. This requirement applies to all producers seeking federal crop insurance premium subsidies for the 2017 reinsurance year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.) **Producers who filed an exception certification last year must file a form AD-1026 with FSA by June 1, 2016 to maintain premium subsidies on your policy for 2017.** Producers without a signed AD-1026 on file can still purchase crop insurance, but they will no longer be eligible to receive the government paid premium subsidies. Additional information is available on the [Five Steps to Meet Conservation Compliance](#) website.

Calling All Fans of the California Crop Weather Report - We Need Your Input

NASS is seeking additional weekly survey respondents for our most frequently read report, California Crop Weather. The survey usually takes about 10 minutes and respondents provide the latest information on crop progress, conditions, and comments for their respective county or commodities. If you are available or know of someone who would like to add their voice to this popular report, please contact Eric “Archie” Archambault at Eric.Archambault@nass.usda.gov or 916-498-8622.

June Surveys Gearing Up

During the next several weeks, NASS will conduct two major mid-year surveys, the June Agricultural Survey and the June Area Survey. NASS gathers the data for the June Agriculture Survey online, by mail, phone and through in-person interviews. For the June Area Survey, agency representatives visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of a farm or ranch on that land. NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports, including the annual [Acreage](#) report, [Rice Stocks](#) report and quarterly [Grain Stocks](#) report, all to be released June 30, 2016 at 9:00 am PT. Survey data contribute to NASS’s monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports, as well as the annual *Small Grains Summary* and USDA’s monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*. For more information on June Surveys, contact Michael Landis at Michael.Landis@nass.usda.gov or 916-498-8940.

NASS Launches First-Ever Local Food Marketing Practices Survey

NASS is conducting the 2015 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey to produce official benchmark data on the local food sector in the United States. This first-time survey asks producers for information on their production and local marketing of foods during the 2015 calendar year. Now as communities are using programs funded by the Agricultural Act of 2014, to help grow the local food sector, this new survey will help show where the sector is today and help identify future needs. The Local Foods Marketing Practices Survey was mailed to a random sample of producers that grow and sell foods locally. Farmers and ranchers can fill out the survey online via a secure website, www.agcounts.usda.gov or return their form by mail. For more information, contact Curt Stock at Curt.Stock@nass.usda.gov or 916-498-5161.

Safety Net Coverage Enrollment Continues

Producers who chose safety-net coverage from Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage programs can visit Farm Service Agency county offices to sign contracts to [enroll in coverage](#) for 2016. The enrollment period will continue until **August 1, 2016**.

Reminder: Notice of Damage

Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency (FSA) remind insured producers that a written notice of damage or loss of production is to be filed **within 72 hours of initial discovery** of damage or loss of production. This also applies to producers enrolled in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. These notifications provide the opportunity for the insurance provider to inspect the crop and determine the extent of damage or potential production before

the crop is harvested or otherwise disposed of. In the event of damage or loss, producers should contact either their insurance agent or [local FSA office](#) as appropriate.

Funding Opportunities

Help for Value-Added Activities Available Now

Rural Development is now accepting applications for the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) (VAPG) Program. Approximately \$44 million is available nationally to help agricultural producers with value-added activities. Paper applications are due by **July 1, 2016** and electronic applications are due by **June 24, 2016**. Planning Grants can be used for such activities as the development of feasibility studies, market studies and business plans. Working Capital Grants can be used for activities such as processing (including eligible labor, packaging and labeling), purchase of additional raw commodity, marketing and distribution, etc. Questions may be directed to Martin Zone at (530) 792-5829 or martin.zone@ca.usda.gov.

Support for Organic Farmers Continues

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides funds to agricultural producers so that environmentally-sensitive land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. Funds are available for establishing shrubs and trees, or supporting pollinating species, and can be planted in blocks or strips. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Interested organic producers can offer eligible land for enrollment in this initiative at any time. To learn more about CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic to learn more about how FSA can help organic farmers. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or follow #CRPis30 on Twitter.

Reminder to Report Tree Loss

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experience losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2015 must submit a Tree Assistance Program (TAP) application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible. If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually. Call us at 530-792-5520 or [click here for more information TAP and other FSA disaster programs](#). Visit your [local FSA county office](#) for further assistance.

Reports and Publications

NASS Reports

[Crop Production](#) (5/10/16)

[Raisin Grape Overhead Trellis Report](#) (5/10/16)

[Almond Subjective Forecast](#) (05/10/16)

[Olive Inventory](#) (5/24/16)

[Walnut Acreage Report](#) (5/24/16)

[Fruit & Nut Review](#) (5/25/16)

[Livestock Review](#) (5/25/16)

[Processing Tomato Report](#) (05/26/16)

[Field Crop Review](#) (5/26/16)

[Poultry Report](#) (5/26/16)

FSA Issues Fiscal Year 2015 Impacts Report

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) accomplished several targeted goals in the past fiscal year. To highlight those achievements, FSA published [IMPACTS](#), an accomplishments document that you can view online. FSA's roots date back nearly 80 years, to the days of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, when the rural economy was in crisis and America's farmers and ranchers needed assistance. [This report](#) highlights the achievements of FSA, and it will help to ensure that the path forward continues to demonstrate our commitment to rural America. For more information about the report, contact Todd Atkinson at (202) 270-4034.

Other Activities and Events

Upcoming Farm Demonstration Visits to Focus on Soil Health

The California Farm Demonstration Network (CFDN) is hosting a series of farm visits for agricultural producers during the months of May and June that will demonstrate how long-term goals for healthy soil are being achieved at each farm, without compromising production. Producers, conservationists and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend one or more of these demonstrations, to be held at **10:00 a.m.** on the dates below at the following locations:

- **Tuesday, May 10:** Bar-Vee Dairy N Ranch Dryland Cropping Site, Hwy 12 West of Hwy 113 and South of Dixon just north of Rio Vista Train Museum
- **Wednesday, June 15:** T&D Willey Farms, 13886 Road 20, Madera, CA 93637
- **Friday, June 24:** Sano Farms, 44935-B West Shields Ave., Firebaugh, CA 93622

Maps and flyer are available at <http://go.usa.gov/cuKxG>. For more information contact Mitchell at jpmitchell@ucdavis.edu or (559) 303-9689.

NRCS Hosts Mid-year State Technical Advisory Meeting

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California is hosting a mid-year State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting on **May 5, 2016**, to discuss NRCS programs, initiatives, and conservation issues. The meeting will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Davis from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The STAC provides recommendations to State Conservationist Carlos Suarez on implementation of NRCS conservation programs in California. Those interested in conservation on private lands are welcome to attend. The Odd Fellows Hall in Davis is located at 415 2nd Street. For more information on the meeting, contact Alan Forkey at (530) 792-5653. For more information on NRCS programs, visit www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.

Value-Added Producer Grant Application Webinar

Rural Development will be hosting a training webinar on **May 11, 2016 at 10:00 am** for anyone interested in applying for a [Value-Added Producer Grant](#). To register for this free workshop please contact Martin Zone at (530) 792-5829 or martin.zone@ca.usda.gov.

Veteran & Farmers Resources Workshops

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will host a series in Veteran & Farmer Resources Workshops across California. The workshops will gauge service member and transitioning veterans' interest in USDA careers and Agriculture. NRCS is working closely with National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and Farmer Veteran Coalition to bring "Arms to Farms" and "Home grown by Heroes" for a first California conference in the near future. Workshops include:

- **May 25:** 8:00 am – 5:30 pm, Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto. Contact Carmen Johnson at (209) 491-9320 ext. 112 or carmen.johnson@ca.usda.gov
- **June 15:** 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Elk Grove Grange Hall, 9125 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove. Contact Dwane Coffey at (916) 714-1104 or dwane.coffey@ca.usda.gov.

About Us

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

- [Find a Program](#)

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- [When Disaster Strikes](#)
- [Managing Credit Needs](#)
- [Commodity Support](#)
- [Direct/Counter-Cyclical and Revenue Programs](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Conservation](#)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- [Conservation](#)
- [Financial Assistance and Easement Programs](#)

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

- [Census of Agriculture](#)
- [Agriculture Surveys](#)

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

- [Crop Insurance Programs](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)

Rural Development (RD)

- [Overview of Programs](#)

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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