

July 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.

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Updates

USDA Offers Help to Fire-Affected Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) California Executive Director, Oscar Gonzales, reminds farmers and ranchers affected by the recent wildfires that USDA has programs to assist with their recovery efforts. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist farmers and ranchers who lost livestock, grazing land, fences or eligible trees, bushes and vines as a result of a natural disaster. FSA administers a suite of safety-net programs to help producers recover from eligible losses, including the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. For more information on USDA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Center go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

First-Ever Local Food Marketing Practices Survey Provides Benchmark Data

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.

2017 Census of Agriculture - Early Outreach & Planning

The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and statistics on U.S. agricultural production. Conducted every 5 years, it is an opportunity for NASS and partner organizations to ensure all farms and ranches are included. Decisions based on census data will affect agricultural operations, producers and consumers for years to come. To increase participation of underrepresented and often underserved agricultural producers, NASS is actively seeking the cooperation and support of organizations working to serve California communities. Current activities include building and maintaining an accurate list of all farms and ranches in California and the U.S., to make sure everyone is represented. Contact Jodi Letterman at Jodi.Letterman@nass.usda.gov or 916-498-8629 if you have an upcoming educational or outreach activity to include census outreach items, want to provide a list of folks to include in the survey, or recommend a group for outreach. [Farmers and ranchers can click here to sign up and be counted.](#) Data collection begins in December 2017 and results are scheduled to publish February 2019.

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

USDA Risk Management Agency announces Request of Applications for the Education Partnerships Program and Targeted States Program

The 2016 Request for Applications for the Risk Management Education Partnerships Program and the Targeted States Program have been published and can be viewed [here](#). The deadline for submitting applications is **July 5, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. Applications must be submitted through <http://rvs.umn.edu/Home.aspx>. Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov nor will hard copy applications be accepted. A tutorial on how to apply is available online at <http://rvs.umn.edu/rmaresources> and is also included in the application system. Applicants must be registered through the System for Acquisition Management (SAM). Please visit www.SAM.gov for information on how to register. Contact RMA's Davis Regional Office (530) 792-5870 or rsoca@rma.usda.gov if you need help or have other questions.

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.

NRCS Expands Targeted Investment to Combat Climate Change

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California is committing \$4.3 million to help farmers and ranchers mitigate the effects of climate change. The agency has identified more than a dozen conservation practices that farmers can choose from that will help to reduce greenhouse gas. Continuing through the end of the 2016 fiscal year, NRCS will process applications to ensure that approved conservation practices are funded through this targeted funding pool. Customers who are interested in finding out more about what they can do to combat climate change are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Service Center.

Since its inception in 1935, NRCS has worked in partnership with private landowners and a variety of local, state and federal conservation partners to deliver conservation based on specific, local needs. Please visit www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov for more information about NRCS.

Reports and Publications

NASS Reports

[Almond OM Report](#) (7/6/16)

[Crop Production](#) (7/12/16)

[Olive Inventory](#) (7/21/16)

[Fruit & Nut Review](#) (7/27/16)

[Livestock Review](#) (7/27/16)

[Field Crop Review](#) (7/28/16)

[Poultry Report](#) (7/28/16)

[Citrus Acreage Report](#) (8/4/16)

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

USDA Launches 2016 Ag Resource Management Survey (ARMS)

USDA NASS is beginning to collect data for the ARMS survey to gather detailed information on farming in California and the nation. ARMS is a joint effort of NASS and USDA's Economic Research Service. In 2016, the survey will take a closer look at corn production, and both organic and conventional milk production in the United States. A sample of California farmers and ranchers can expect to see the survey in July 2016. Data from the 2016 ARMS will be used to assess the crop insurance choices made by farmers, helping policymakers better understand the impact of crop insurance offerings on farm production decisions and financial outcomes. NASS will continue data collection for ARMS through April of next year. For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov/ca or contact Curt Stock, Curt.Stock@nass.usda.gov in the Pacific Regional Office at 916-498-8935.

2017 Census of Agriculture - Early Outreach & Planning

The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and statistics on U.S. agricultural production. Conducted every 5 years, it is an opportunity for NASS and partner organizations to ensure all farms and ranches are included. Decisions based on census data will affect agricultural operations, producers and consumers for years to come. To increase participation of underrepresented and often underserved agricultural producers, NASS is actively seeking the cooperation and support of organizations working to serve California communities. Current activities include building and maintaining an accurate list of all farms and ranches in California and the U.S., to make sure everyone is represented. Contact Jodi Letterman at Jodi.Letterman@nass.usda.gov or 916-498-8629 if you have an upcoming educational or outreach activity to include census outreach items, want to provide a list of folks to include in the survey, or recommend a group for outreach. [Farmers and ranchers can click here to sign up and be counted.](#) Data collection begins in December 2017 and results are scheduled to publish February 2019.

2016 Ag Resource Management Survey (ARMS) Includes Organic & Conventional Milk This Year

USDA NASS is collecting data for the ARMS survey to gather detailed information on farming in California and across the Nation. ARMS is a joint effort of NASS and USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). This year, the survey will take a closer look at organic and conventional milk production, as well as corn production. A sample of California farmers and ranchers can expect to see the survey over the next few weeks. Data from the 2016 ARMS will be used to assess the crop insurance choices made by farmers, helping policymakers better understand the impact of crop insurance offerings on farm production decisions and financial outcomes. NASS will continue data collection for ARMS through April of next year. For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov/ca or contact Curt Stock, Curt.Stock@nass.usda.gov in the Pacific Regional Office at 916-498-8935.

African American Farmer & Rancher Event

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will host an African American Farmer & Ranchers workshop at the Fresno County Service Center. The workshop will provide information on Farm Loans and Farm Programs. Additionally, there will be presentations from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development and the Risk Management Agency.

July 12: 9:30 am – 11:30 am, USDA Fresno County Service Center, 4625 W. Jennifer, Suite 109, Fresno. Contact James Harris at 559-276-7494 ext. 109 or James.Harris@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:

- **July 14: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Chico Grange Hall, 2775 Old Nord Avenue, Chico. Contact Daniel Taverner at 530-534-0112 or Daniel.Taverner@ca.usda.gov.**

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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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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