

November 2012



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Fresno County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the GovDelivery newsletter and bulletin service from your Fresno County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Office Address **2011 Crop Disaster Program**

4625 W Jennifer #
109

Fresno, CA 93722

Office Hours:

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Weekdays

Closed Federal
Holidays

Phone: (559) 276-
7494 ext. 2

Fax: (559) 276-1791

Farm Loan Manager:

LaVon Treasure

Farm Loan Team:

Chantal Haun, Loan
Officer

Tou Thao, Loan
Officer Trainee

Phoua Yang, Loan

The Fresno County Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. **For 2011, Fresno County growers must have suffered at least a 50% loss in production on all crops on all farms.**

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms in all counties for a producer are included in the calculation.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA. In addition, for SURE Payment the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss. For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program contact Nangpay Vang at the Fresno County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee Election For Eastern Fresno County Underway

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters beginning on Nov. 5, 2012. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Fresno Farm Service Agency office by the **close of business on Dec. 3, 2012.** If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 3, 2012.

This year's election is for Local Administrative Area # 3, which includes all farmers and ranchers living east of Highway 99 in Fresno County.

Candidate **Carl Buxman** has grown tree and vine crops for over 40 years in the Reedley area. Carl currently serves on the Fresno FSA County Committee.

Candidate **May Thao** has grown Asian speciality crops and tree fruit for 5 years in the Reedley area. She currently serves as a minority advisor to the Fresno FSA County Committee.

Discrimination is prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race,

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color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Farm Program Team:

Wanda Medina

Chris San Nicolas

Annie Lee

Valarie Garcia

Noemi Fonseca

Nangpay Vang,
Chief PT

James Smith, COT

County FSA Committee:

Jean Errotabere,
Chair

Richard Carstens, V.
Chair

Carl Buxman,
Member

Will Scott Jr.,
Advisor

May Thao, Advisor

The County
Committee meets
on the second
Thursday of the
month as needed.

County Executive
Director:

Russ Friend

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Information

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013. The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate. **Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429.** Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.
Website: www.farmerclaims.gov Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

Important Dates

December 1, NAP

purchase deadline
for Honey, Onions,
Native pasture and
forage crops.

December 15, NAP
purchase deadline
for Persimmons,
Asian
Pears, Pomegranate
s and most
Strawberries

January 2, Honey
crop certification
deadline

January 15, citrus
and sugar beet crop
certification
deadline.

NAP Coverage 2013

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to timely file acreage reports, provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales reports, etc. Producers must notify FSA within 15 days of damaging weather event, or within 15 days of the crop damage becoming apparent and notify FSA prior to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.

NAP Coverage Deadlines 2013

Onions, Honey, Forage and Native Pasture - 12/01/2012

Asparagus, Cranberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Asian Pears, Persimmon, Pomegranates and Strawberries - 12/15/2012

All Other Annuals - 3/01/2013

Call Nangpay Vang at the Fresno office if you have any questions about NAP.

Emergency Farm Loans

On July 12, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a disaster designation (**S3268**) in 19 California counties based on **damages and losses caused by drought beginning on February 21 through May 14, 2012**. As a result Fresno County family farmers could be eligible for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans. Eligible applicants with qualifying PRODUCTION LOSSES or PHYSICAL LOSSES may apply for EM loan program. Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) is also available to borrowers with Farm Loan Program (FLP) loans who suffered losses as a result

of the natural disaster. Emergency Loan eligibility requirements include a minimum 30% production loss due to the natural disaster, the ability to repay the emergency loan and any other loans, adequate loan security, evidence of multi-peril crop insurance and the inability to obtain credit elsewhere. Other requirements may apply and loan approval will be contingent upon the availability of funds. Our office is currently accepting applications through **March 12, 2013**.

In addition, Fresno is considered a contiguous disaster County under the **S3320** designation. The natural disaster included **damages and losses caused by hail, rain, and cold temperatures, which occurred on April 11, 2012 through April 13, 2012**. As a result eligible family farmers may apply for EM loans or DSA under the declaration. Applications are being received through **April 3, 2013**.

Lastly, Fresno County once again is a contiguous disaster County under the S3379 designation. The designation was declared due to **damages and losses caused by drought that occurred on January 1, 2012 and continuing**. EM loans are available for eligible family farmers and/or DSA to FLP borrowers with outstanding loans; applications are currently being accepted now and through **May 6, 2013**.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the Fresno office staff up to date on changes in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the Fresno FSA office so we can update your files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

For more information on newsletter subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Fresno County FSA Office, contact Russ Friend, County Executive Director russ.friend@ca.usda.gov or the Fresno FSA staff at (559) 276-7494 ext. 2

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).