



**Humboldt/Del Norte
County FSA**

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Eureka, CA 95503

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Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Office Staff

Katie Delbar
**County Executive
Director**

Belle Davis
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Karri Bartolomei
Farm Loan Officer

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County Committee

Peter Bussman, Chair
Patrick Fulton, Vice
Chair
Joey Borges
Gary Belli
Richard Wetherell
Kara Miller, Advisor

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

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Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

County Committee Nominations

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through August 1, 2012.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the July 15th deadline.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of April 30th for small grains and July 15th for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

IMPORTANT - AGI Reconciliation Process

FSA's **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Reconciliation Process** begins when FSA is notified that the IRS has not received a valid "**Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information**" form.

There are two distinct reasons why a producer appears on an FSA AGI Reconciliation Report: 1) IRS did not receive a consent form from the producer or 2) IRS rejected the consent form.

In these cases the IRS notifies the FSA National Office which then directs the producer's recording FSA County office to reconcile the report. The county office then contacts the producer to complete a **CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information"**.

It is then the FSA County Office responsibility to mail the completed CCC-931 consent form to IRS. Failure to provide the required "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" forms may render a producer ineligible for FSA program benefits and require repayment of benefits received.

NAP Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by

any producer with an interest in the crop. The timely filing of a Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

If you believe you have had weather-related damage to your crop, contact the FSA office immediately.

MILC Requirements Reminder

Dairy producers must meet program requirements to maintain program eligibility. MILC participants must notify their local FSA office of any operation changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number.

Dairy producers applying for MILC payment must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements by completing, "CCC-931 - AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information."

For MILC enrollment, dairy producers must fill out, "CCC-580 - Milk Income Loss Contract" and select a start-month for payments. Current dairies in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14th of the month before the selected MILC production start-month. The change must also be made before requesting payment and before the original MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on "CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification."

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



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Del Norte County Farm Loan Disaster Declaration

On March 2, 2012, President Barack Obama declared a disaster designation based on damages and losses caused by severe winter storm, flooding, landslides and mudslides. As a result of this designation, Del Norte County is eligible as a contiguous county for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) Loans for eligible family farmers.

Farmers have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Some of the eligibility requirements are:

- have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause;
- be able to repay the loan and any other loans;
- be unable to obtain credit elsewhere;
- have adequate security;
- have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and meet other eligibility criteria.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, which reflects the exact date(s) and nature of the designated disaster and how it caused the loss or damage. Crop insurance field reports may be a source for documenting losses directly related the cited cause.

The authorization for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept Emergency loan applications under this designation expires on November 2, 2012. Please contact your Farm Loan Team at (707) 468-9225 x 2.

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