

April 2013



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Imperial County FSA Updates

Imperial County FSA Office

177 N. Imperial Ave
El Centro CA 92243

Phone: 760.352.3531
Fax: 760.352.0219

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:
8:00AM - 4:30PM M-F

County Committee:
Stephen W. Benson-Chair
Gilberto Gonzalez-Vice Chair
Craig Alameda - Regular Mbr.

County Executive Director:
Rosalinda Singh

Program Technicians:
Carmen Perez
Julia Contreras

Farm Loan Staff:
(located in Bakersfield CA)
Phone: 661.336.0967
Fax: 661.336.0857
Tom Hunton, Sr. Loan Mgr.
Elsa Mora, Program Tech.

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment with a Farm Loan Officer or Manager.

Read two stories showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#), 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be

filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application 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. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops, commodities and land uses can prevent loss of benefits for FSA programs including Commodity (DCP/ACRE); Loans & LDP's and NAP. The next acreage reporting deadline for Imperial County is MAY 15, 2013 for TABLE GRAPES. July 2012 ushered in many changes to FSA's acreage reporting deadlines. 2013 acreage reporting deadlines are as follows:

DEC 15, 2012: Perennial Forage (alfalfa, bermuda, klein, etc) and potatoes

JAN 02, 2013: Honey

JAN 15: Sugar beets, all citrus

MARCH 15: Small Grains

MAY 15: Table Grapes

MAY 31: Nursery

JULY 15: Corn, Cotton, Onions, Safflower, Sudan, Tomatoes and all other crops not included in prior stated deadlines.

If you haven't reported your crops, please contact this office to arrange an appointment to do so.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- * Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- * Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- * Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- * Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records to this office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact this office by June 1.

Important Dates

MAY 1 - CLAIMS PERIOD END DATE FOR HISPANIC & WOMEN FARMER/RANCHER CLAIMANTS

MAY 15 - ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE FOR TABLE GRAPES

MAY 31 - REPORTING DEADLINE FOR NURSERY

JUNE 1 - DEADLINE TO PROVIDE FARM RECORD CHANGES TO FSA

JUNE 3 - ACRE SIGN-UP PERIOD ENDS

JULY 15 - ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE FOR CORN, COTTON, ONIONS, SAFFLOWER, SUDAN, TOMATOES & OTHER CROPS

AUGUST 2 - DCP SIGN-UP PERIOD ENDS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).