

August 2013



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Imperial County FSA Updates

Imperial County FSA Office

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Farm Loan Staff:

(located in Bakersfield)
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DCP Deadline - September 16th

The sign-up period for the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) is set to end on September 16th. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the deadline.

Contact this office as soon as possible for an appointment or more information.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Starting with 2012, a combined overall income exceeding \$1 million excludes participation in DCP or ACRE.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their our FSA Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

Acreage Reports

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops/commodities and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acreage can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of USDA programs. Failed acreage must be

Next County Committee Meeting: Sept. 25, 2013
at 9:00 AM (tentatively scheduled)

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. If you have not completed your 2013 acreage report, please contact this office immediately.

Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process that helps new and smaller producers as well as specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact our farm loan staff located in Bakersfield.

Secretarial Disaster Designations

Secretarial disaster designations make farm operators in primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans (EM). Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator. Below are existing declarations where Imperial County is identified as either a primary or contiguous county:

S3534 - CONTIGUOUS - DROUGHT - Termination date for EM loan applications is FEBRUARY 05, 2014.
S3542 - PRIMARY - DROUGHT - Termination date for EM loan applications is FEBRUARY 19, 2014.
S3544 - CONTIGUOUS - DROUGHT - Termination date for EM loan applications is FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

Each designation has its own timeframe for damages and losses. For more information regarding these designations and FSA emergency loans, please contact our farm loan staff located in Bakersfield.

Important Dates

SEPTEMBER 2, 2013 - OFFICE CLOSED - LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 - DCP DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 - 9AM - NEXT COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING (TENTATIVE)

FEBRUARY 05, 19, 26, 2014 - DEADLINE FOR EM LOANS (SEE APPLICABLE DESIGNATIONS ABOVE)

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).

