



## Lancaster Farm Service Agency Office

Serving Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino Counties

44811 N. Date Ave, Suite B, Lancaster, CA 93534

### 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program

The 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. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

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 NAP coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, producers must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in the Secretarial Disaster Designation for the county or a 50% loss in actual crop production.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program contact your local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/)

### NAP Coverage Deadlines

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. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) crop insurance.

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date (*See Dates to Remember on Page 4 for upcoming closing dates*).

Producers who already have coverage on 2012 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2013, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

## NAP Losses

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. 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.

## Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that as of Oct. 1, 2012 the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,302,000. This limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The FSA overall lending ceiling increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is now \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers can contact the local FSA county offices with questions about farm loans.

## Electronic Services Available

With Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive both approvals and direct deposit payments within 48 hours.

To participate in these electronic services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.usda.gov/](http://www.eauth.usda.gov/) followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

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.

USDA 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.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. Public meetings are also being held in many areas to share further information. Contact your nearest FSA office to get a schedule in your area.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period:** Sept. 24, 2012- March 25, 2013.

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

## 2013 Ag Census Coming

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the February 4, 2013 deadline.

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts **everyone** across our nation.

## Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

## Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, producers must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are made in two parts: a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**NOTICE  
TO HISPANIC  
AND/OR  
WOMEN  
FARMERS OR  
RANCHERS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR CLAIMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Sign Up for FSA “Fence Post” for Daily Updates**

The Farm Service Agency *Fence Post* is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency’s programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access *Fence Post* visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. On this website, producers can sign up for *Fence Post* updates by putting an email address in box that says “Get Email Updates” and then navigating to the publication’s sign up check box.

**Selected Interest Rates for  
December 2012**

Farm Operating Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Direct, Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Ownership Direct Down Payment,	1.500%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.725%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

**Dates to Remember**

Dec. 15	Acreage Reporting date for Perennials forage
Dec. 15	NAP 2013 application closing date for fruit/nut/tree crops, asparagus, artichokes, and herbs
Dec. 25	Christmas Day – FSA Office closed
Jan 1, 2013	New Years Day – FSA Office closed
Jan 2, 2013	Hive reporting date for Honey
Jan 15, 2013	Acreage Reporting date for Strawberries
Jan 31, 2013	NAP 2013 application closing date for Apples
March 1, 2013	NAP 2013 application closing date for Annual Crops
March 25, 2013	Hispanic & Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period deadline date

**County Office Staff**

**County Executive Director**  
Douglas Brand

**Program Technician**  
Marilynn Wells

**County Committee**  
Terry Munz  
Richard Manassero  
Paul Johnson  
Patricia Van Dam

**COC Advisor**  
Bennie Moore, Jr.

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Monday through Friday

**Phone:** 661- 942-9549 ext. 2  
**Fax:** 661-942-5503

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