

October 2012



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Madera County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your 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.

Madera County FSA Office

425 N Gateway Dr, Suite E
Madera, CA 93637

Phone: 559-674-4628
Fax: 559-674-1170

County Executive Director:

Joe Grillo

Program Technicians:
Debbie Cook
Nancy Talley

**Natural Resource
Conservation Service:**
Jennifer Johnson
Dennis Dudley
Mira Dick
Priscilla Baker
Darren Holguin
Sheryl Feit
Mark Eberhart

EQIP Rangeland Assistance for Ranchers

Conservation planning is the most fundamental and important starting point for maintaining or improving your ranch's natural resources. Every ranch has its own unique resource problems or concerns and each rancher has a unique way of addressing them.

A conservation plan is a written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices you plan to implement on your ranch. It can help you with decision-making so you can achieve your ranching goals while protecting and improving your natural resources. Reasons for a ranch plan range from a desire to see more wildlife, to develop a more efficient grazing system, to alleviating soil erosion, to increasing forage productivity, or improving water quality.

The plan is entirely yours and 100% voluntary and flexible and we can assist with developing one with you. Once a plan is completed, financial and technical assistance may be available for plan implementation. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is available for livestock producers on rangeland interested in addressing resource concerns identified in their conservation plan. Possible rangeland practices to address resource concerns include brushing, water developments for grazing distribution, erosion control structures on ranch roads, or refined grazing practices.

Please visit www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov or contact Dennis Dudley at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for more information or assistance at 559-674-2108 x 109. The first round of EQIP applications must be turned in on or before November 16, 2012.

2013 Crop Reporting Dates

Crop	Practice/Final Plant Dates	Reporting Deadlines
Perennial Forage (Alfalfa), Native Grass & Clover		December 15, 2012
Honey		January 2, 2013
Strawberries	8/16 – 11/15	January 15, 2013
Wheat	Fall or Spring Seeded	March 15, 2013
Barley & Oats	Fall Seeded	March 15, 2013
	Spring Seeded	July 15, 2013
Almonds, Walnuts, Apples, Cherries, Apricots, Peaches		March 15, 2013
Grapes & Table Grapes		May 15, 2013
Corn, Dry Beans, Rice, Onions & Tomatoes		July 15, 2013

2011 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments..

Application Deadline for NRCS Conservation Programs Fast Approaching

For those farmers, ranchers, forestry landowners and Tribes who are interested in applying for Fiscal Year 2013 Farm Bill conservation program financial assistance, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California has set Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, as the deadline for funding consideration for the 2013 fund cycle. This deadline includes applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) priorities, the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program and the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. Applications received after November 16 may be considered for funding if California receives additional funds during the year. NRCS's conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, improve irrigation efficiency, improve water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP, NRCS's largest conservation program, helps landowners plan and implement conservation practices that address a wide range of natural resource concerns and provide opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

You can contact the Madera County NRCS office to apply:

- **Madera County NRCS Field Office**
- 425 N Gateway Drive Suite K, Madera, CA 93637
- (559) 674 2108 ext 3
- Fax (559)-674-2109

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877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).