

December 2012



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Merced-Mariposa 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.

Office Location:

2926 G Street, Suite 103

Merced, CA 95340-2110

Contact Information:

Phone (209)722-4119 ext 2

Fax (209)722-0974

Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee (COC):

Simon Vandroude, Chair

Arthur W. Richards, Vice Chair

RosaAnn Serrano, Member

Pasquale Palazzo, Member

Jose D. Vazquez, Advisor

NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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.

2013 NAP Application Closing Dates	
Crops	Date
Asparagus, Artichokes, Herbs	12/15/2012
Fruit - Nut Tree Crops: Almonds, Apricots, Cane berries Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums Pomegranates, Most Strawberries, Walnuts	12/15/2012
Apples	1/31/2013

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

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.

Farm Program Staff:

Joe Grillo, CED

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.

Lydia Swilley, PT

Gizela Gover, PT

Lenai Mull, PT

Tina Frey, PT

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 such as pumpkins, cucumbers and others, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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.

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM

Aileen Garcia, FLO

Laura Westerfield, FLOT

Phyllis Boyle, PT

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.

Merced-Mariposa COC Election Results

Congratulations to Simon Vander Woude!

Mr. Vander Woude was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA #1 which covers central Merced County with an eastern boundary being Highway 99 and a western boundary being the San Joaquin River. He will serve another 3 year term which begins January 2013.

The election results are as follows:

Simon Vander Woude - COC Member

Toby Soares – 1st Alternate

The Farm Service Agency appreciates all of the voters who took the time to complete the election ballot and those producers willing to be nominated. The county committee system works only because of your participation. Thank you!

Hispanic and Women Farmer And Rancher Claims Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 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.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov, **Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider



The Merced-Mariposa Farm Service Agency Staff would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, and best wishes for the New Year!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).