

February 2013



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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):

Arthur W. Richards, Chair

RoseAnn Serrano, Vice Chair

Simon Vander Woude, Member

Pasquale Palazzo, Member

Jose D.Vazquez, Advisor

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Provisions Announced

Beginning **February 1, 2013 through February 28, 2013**, participants in the MILC program may change their production start month which will be effective for the 2013 fiscal year. This relief period has been authorized because producers were not able to make timely start month selections for the 2013 year according to normal start month selection provisions. During the authorized relief period, the production start month selected may be any month from October 2012 through September 2013. **In addition, all MILC participants will need to file producer eligibility documents** including form CCC-933, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information, form AD-1026, Highly Erodible/Wetland Certification and form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan. Any changes to bank accounts must also be reported in order for us to update your Direct Deposit information.

In order to provide you with the best customer service, **please call to schedule an appointment** prior to coming into the office. The Merced/Mariposa Farm Service Agency office may be reached at (209)722-4119 Ext. 2 from 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.

2013 Crop Reporting Dates

Farm Program Staff:

Joe Grillo, CED

Lydia Swilley, PT

Gizela Gover, PT

Lenai Mull, PT

Tina Frey, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM

Aileen Garcia, FLO

Laura Westerfield, FLOT

Phyllis Boyle, PT

CROP	NEW DEADLINE
Honey	January 2
Fall Seeded Wheat, Barley & Oats	March 15
Spring Seeded Barley & Oats	July 15
Avocados, Blueberries, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins, Tangelos, Oranges, Strawberries, Sugar Beets	January 15
Alfalfa Seed, Almonds, Apples, Barley, Cherries, Figs, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Walnuts	March 15
Grapes, Table Grapes and Forage Seeding	May 15
Forage Seeding	June 15
Spring Alfalfa seed, Barley, Corn, Cotton, Rice, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Safflower, Tomatoes and all other crops	July 15
Raisins	July 31
Strawberries	September 15
Perennial Forage	December 15

Sales Closing Date Nears for Crop Insurance Programs

Sales closing dates for several crop insurance programs are almost here. Please make sure to sign up, review, or change your crop policy before these dates have passed. **February 28** is the last day to buy or change your policy for Corn, Cotton and ELS Cotton, Cultivated Wild Rice, Dry Beans, Figs, Grain Sorghum, and Rice. For more information contact your agent.



Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA Office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract from purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to report changes can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the Spring.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with High Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservations plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not

jeopardize our eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/.

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).