

October 2013



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## Merced/Mariposa County FSA Updates

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### Merced/Mariposa County:

#### 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

#### Farm Program Staff:

Garrett Pedretti, CED  
Lydia Swilley, PT  
Gizela Gover, PT  
Lenai Mull, PT

### Reporting of Fall Crops

All producers are reminded that the **acreage reporting date for 2014 fall crops is December 15, 2013**. This applies to all perennial forage (e.g. alfalfa, native pasture land). Please call for an appointment to certify your crops. The one year grace period for late crop reporting has expired. Producers who fail to meet the deadline will incur late filing fees.

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### 2014 Crop Reporting Dates

May 31, 2013	NAP nursery crops
September 15, 2013	Strawberries planted 6/15 – 8/15/2013
September 30, 2013	NAP value loss (e.g. Christmas trees, floriculture)
November 15, 2013	Apiculture, PRF (Crop Insurance only)
December 15, 2013	Perennial forage (e.g. rye, orchard grass, Bermuda grass, alfalfa)
January 2, 2014	NAP honey
January 15, 2014	Strawberries planted 8/16 - 11/15/2013 Avocados, blueberries, grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, Minneola, tangelos, navel oranges, Orlando tangelos, sweet oranges, Valencia oranges

Tina Frey, PT		Sugar beets planted 9/1 - 12/13/2013
<b>Farm Loan Staff:</b>	March 15, 2014	Alfalfa seed, wheat (fall and spring), almonds, apples, barley (fall), cherries, figs, aricots, freestone peaches, nectarines, oats, pears, plums, cling peaches, prunes, walnuts.
LaVon Treasure, FLM Aileen Garcia, FLO Laura Westerfield, FLOT Phyllis Boyle, PT	May 15, 2014	Grapes and table grapes
<b>Next COC Meeting:</b>	June 15, 2014	Forage for seed crops Strawberries all other plant dates.
November 21, 2013	July 15, 2014	Alfalfa seed (spring), barley (spring), corn, cotton (Upland and ELS), cultivated wild rice, dry
	beans,	tomatoes (FR and PR), grain sorghum, mint, oats (springs), onions, rice, safflower, and all other crops except raisins.
	July 31, 2014	Raisins

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## County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA's 3 and 4 on November 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the Merced/Mariposa County FSA office at (209)722-4119 ext. 2.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 2, 2013.

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## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest and acreage reporting requirements and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling 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

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## Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

Dairy producers participating in the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program must submit final production evidence and any supporting documentation by November 1, 2013. Documentation must be submitted for all eligible months that MILC payments were available, which include fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013. More information is available at local county offices

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## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Emergency Loans - Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations

As a result of these designations, the counties listed are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

The following current disaster designations have been declared by the Secretary of Agriculture:

**Date Declared:** 02/27/2013

**Designation Code:** S3491

**Disaster Description:** Merced and Madera Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2013, through February 25, 2013.

**Final Date to Apply:** 10/28/2013

**Date Declared:** 04/24/2013

**Designation Code:** S3511

**Disaster Description:** Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred February 26, 2013, through April 22, 2013.

**Final Date to Apply:** 12/24/2013

**Date Declared:** 07/03/2013

**Designation Code:** S3547

**Disaster Description:** Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on May 5, 2013, through July 1, 2013.

**Final Date to Apply:** 03/03/2014

**Date Declared:** 07/31/2013

**Designation Code:** S3558

**Disaster Description:** Merced County has been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on June 4, 2013, through July 29, 2013.

**Final Date to Apply:** 03/31/2014

**Some of the eligibility requirements are as follows:**

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the cited cause,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet all other eligibility criteria.

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