



# NEWSLETTER



Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County  
Farm Service Agency Office  
October 2012

## 2012 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 on November 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, let the county FSA office know. Remember to take the time to vote. The local County Committee provides a voice for local farmers and ranchers when farm policy is implemented. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012. Candidates running for County Committee this year are:

LAA#3 (South Monterey County)  
Bill Roth, cattle rancher

LAA#4 (Santa Cruz/San Mateo Counties)  
Alicia Alvarez, berry grower  
Nita Gizdich, Apple, berry grower  
Sam Mann, Apple grower

## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign Up

SURE provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE a farm or ranch must:

(1) be physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county, or contiguous county. Monterey County is a contiguous disaster declared county. Without a disaster designation, producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of normal production due to a natural disaster (Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties); (2) at least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance in Monterey County. In Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, at least a 50 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance due to a natural disaster; (3) crop insurance or NAP coverage for ALL economically significant crops, in all counties. Producers who meet the definition of socially disadvantaged, beginning farmer/rancher or limited resource farmer, may be eligible for SURE without crop insurance or NAP coverage.

The deadline to file a 2011 SURE application is close of business, June 7, 2013. Contact the county office for an appointment or more information.

*Si necesita una Explicación en Español,  
Por Favor Llámenos A La oficina*

## New! 2013 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

All producers are reminded that the crop acreage reporting dates have been revised, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. Most FSA programs require annual filing of a complete and accurate crop acreage report. For assistance with filing, please contact the county office. If you are not sure about what date to file an acreage report for your particular crop, we would be happy to assist you, please just give us a call. The new acreage reporting dates for Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo counties are:

- 05/31/2012 Non-insurable Container Nursery
- 09/15/2012 Strawberries planted 6/15/2012 to 8/15/2012
- 09/30/2012 Value Loss Crops (Flowers, Aquaculture, Xmas Trees)
- 12/15/2012 Perennial Forage (all uses) INCLUDES NATIVE GRASS
- 01/02/2013 Honey
- 01/15/2013 Strawberries planted 8/16/2012 to 01/15/2012  
Avocados, Blueberries, Lemons, other Citrus  
Sugar Beets
- 03/15/2013 Barley, Wheat, Oats for GRAIN or FORAGE HAY
- 03/15/2013 Alfalfa seed, Almonds, Apples, Barley, Cherries, Figs, Apricots, Peaches FH, Nectarines FH, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Walnuts
- 05/15/2013 Grapes
- 06/15/2013 Forage Seeding (alfalfa, rye grass, sudan grass grown for seed)
- 07/15/2013 Cane berries, Corn, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Rice, Safflower, all other crops and Strawberries planted after 11/15/2012

## ***USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Open Claims Period***

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has 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.

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. The Department 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.

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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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

**Claims Period:** Sept. 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.

## ***IRS 1099 Changes***

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## ***Youth Loans***

FSA 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. Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements: (1) Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien; (2) be 10 years to 20 years of age; (3) comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements; (4) reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people; (5) be unable to get a loan from other sources; (6) conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above, and (7) demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision. Call the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

## ***Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Filing for Crop Losses***

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting *due to natural disaster* and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely submission 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 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. Additionally, if you have an approved notice of loss on your crop, your application for payment and production records must be filed in the county office before you file a report of acreage in the succeeding year.

## ***2013 California Small Farm Conference***

Scholarships are now available for small farmers, ranchers, student-farmers and farmer market managers with limited resources, to attend the 2013 California Small Farm Conference. Deadline to file is December 3, 2012. For more information and an application, call 888-712-4188 or visit the following: [www.californiafarmconference.com](http://www.californiafarmconference.com).

## ***Succession in Interest***

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in your farm or ranch and are participating in certain FSA programs, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee immediately. Succession of interest includes sale of land, a change of operator, owner or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners, a foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm, and changes in the producer's share of the crop. Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

## Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 1, 2012	2013 NAP Application Closing Date: NAP Forage (Hay, Native Grass), Honey, Onions
Dec. 15, 2012	2013 NAP Application Closing Date: Cane berries, Blueberries, Strawberries, Artichokes, Herbs, Asparagus, most Fruit and Nut crops, etc.
Dec. 15, 2012	2013 Acreage Reports: Perennial Forage, including Native Grass***SEE OTHER DATES LISTED ON PAGE 1***
Jan. 1, 2013	2014 NAP Application Closing date: Avocados and Citrus
Jan. 31, 2013	2013 NAP Application Closing Date: Apples
Mar. 1, 2013	2013 NAP Application Closing Date: Annual vegetable crops (broccoli, squash, carrots, etc)

*“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”*

### **MONTEREY, SANTA CRUZ, SAN MATEO COUNTY FSA OFFICE INFORMATION**

Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Mateo County FSA  
744 LaGuardia St., Suite A  
Salinas, CA 93905  
Telephone: (831) 424-7377 ext. 2  
Fax: (831) 424-7289

*Hours of Operation:* 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
(Closed on Holidays)

*County Office Staff*  
Vivian Soffa, County Executive Director  
Tonya Linares, Farm Program Technician  
Sandra Venegas, Farm Program Technician  
Enoy Guevara, Farm Loan Officer  
Elsa Chavez, Farm Loan Program Technician

*FSA County Committee*  
Janet Louie, LAA#1  
Betty Barrington, LAA#2  
Ed Roth, LAA#3  
Nita Gizdich, LAA#4  
Tony Serrano, Advisor

*Animals*  
Blackie and Shadow, our resident stray cats