

October 2012



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Santa Barbara/Ventura County FSA

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.

Santa Barbara/Ventura County FSA Office

Address:

920 East Stowell Road
Santa Maria, CA, 93454

Phone: 805-928-9269 Ex.2

Fax: 805-928-9644

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Ventura Office Hours:

1ST & 3RD Wednesday of the month

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*Located at the USDA/RCD Building

3380 Somis Road
Somis, CA, 93066

Note: Make an appointment. We will cancel office hours if we don't have any scheduled appointments.

ATTENTION HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS:

If you, or someone you know, believe the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

Claims MUST be filed between September 24, 2012 and March, 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness.

To learn more and to obtain a claims packet, ATTEND A LOCAL MEETING where speakers explain this compensation program. For meeting details, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca or call 530-792-5520.

For further background and to request a claims packet, you can also access the Farmer and Rancher Call Center or Website: 1-888-508-4429 and www.farmerclaims.gov



LEARN MORE AT A MEETING NEAR YOU:

Salinas – Oct. 10, 7PM

Ag Commissioner's Conference Room

1428 Abbot Rd, Salinas

Ventura – Oct. 17, 7PM

Ag Commissioner's Office

669 County Square Dr. California Room, Ventura

Santa Maria – Oct. 18, 7PM

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov **Email Updates**

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

USDA Service Center

920 East Stowell Rd, Santa Maria

The following is a list of meetings in other cities:

Oct. 23 – Bakersfield

Oct. 24 – Fresno

Nov. 8 – Yuba City

Nov. 15 – Stockton

Nov. 28 – Elk Grove

Nov. 29 – Petaluma

Dec. 11 – Escondido

Dec. 12 – El Centro

Jan. 16 – Moreno Valley

Jan. 23 – Red Bluff

AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

For more information contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at www.usda.gov.

If you have any questions about any of our meetings please visit

www.fsa.usda.gov/ca or call 530-792-5520

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)



The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing

date.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Contact your FSA County Office for deadlines and more information.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact the local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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

NAP Application Deadlines

These are the upcoming NAP Insuring deadlines. If your crop is not on this list contact your local FSA office for more information.

Forage crops, intended use of FG

Hay (mechanically harvested)

Forage crops, intended use of GZ

Grazing: 12/01/2012

Honey: 12/01/2012

Fruit - nut tree crops: 12/15/2012

NAP Loss Filing

For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. The CCC-576 is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

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.



USDA Announces Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Sign-Up Period for 2011 Crop Losses

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 requirements, acreage reporting 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.



The Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia announced today the sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will open Oct. 22, 2012. The SURE program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural

disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

"Any eligible producer who suffered losses during the 2011 crop year is encouraged to visit a local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program and how to apply," said Garcia.

As of Sept. 30, 2011, the Department's authority to operate the SURE program expired along with four other, important disaster assistance programs: the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

For more information on the 2011 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/sure



Emergency Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production losses and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Congress, or State Governor has declared major weather related disasters in the State of California, covering damages & losses for Primary Counties & Contiguous Counties.

Date of Declaration: 06/19/2012

Designation Code: S3255

Disaster Description: Freezing Temperatures, High Winds, Excess Rain

Final Date to Apply: 02/19/2013

To have qualifying losses, applicants must have suffered a severe physical or production loss directly related to the above cited disaster description. For more information contact the FSA farm loan team at (805) 928-9269 Ext. 2.

Rural 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. Loans may not exceed \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
 - 10 to 20 years of age
 - Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
 - Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
 - Be unable to get a loan from other sources
 - Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
 - 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.
- Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

Farm Loan Rates

Loan Purpose	Loan Type	Terms	Rates	Maximum
Farm Ownership	Direct	Up to 40 yrs	3.00%	\$300,000
	Guaranteed	By Lender	By Lender	\$1,302,000
Operating	Direct	1 to 7 yrs	1.125%	\$300,000
	Guaranteed	By Lender	By Lender	\$1,302,000
Emergency	Direct	1 to 40 yrs	2.125%	\$500,000

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).