

November 2012



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Shasta/Trinity County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Shasta/Trinity 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.

Shasta/Trinity County FSA Office

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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:

The following is a list of meetings coming up:



Nov. 8 – Yuba City

Nov. 15 – Stockton

Nov. 28 – Elk Grove

Nov. 29 – Petaluma

Dec. 11 – Escondido

Dec. 12 – El Centro

Ballots for LAA #2 and #4 are due December 3rd.



Jan. 16 – Moreno Valley

Jan. 23 – Red Bluff

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

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

LAA# 2: Mary Rickert is a local farmer and rancher from the McArthur area in northeast Shasta County. She has experience with hay and forage crops, wild rice, livestock and general farming operations in the area. Mary has been on the County Committee for several years and is up for re-election for 2013.

LAA# 4: Jerry Fulton is a local rancher from Hayfork in northern Trinity County. He has experience with livestock, hay and forage crops, and is the County Farm Advisor for Trinity County. Jerry has been a member of the County Committee for several years and is up for re-election for 2013.

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.



Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private

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

New Acreage Reporting Dates

Forage crops, intended use of FG

information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

Hay (mechanically harvested)

Forage crops, intended use of GZ

Grazing: 12/15/2012

Honey: 01/02/2013

Fruit - nut tree crops: 03/15/2013

Grapes: 05/15/2013

Wheat fall/spring: 03/15/2013

Barley & Oats Fall: 03/15/2013

Spring: 07/15/2013



Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers.

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

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.

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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



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.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit.

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

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

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 \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- 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
- Be 10 years 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.

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).