



## July 2012

### Stanislaus -Tuolumne County Farm Service Agency Office

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E  
 Modesto, CA 95358  
 Phone (209) 491-9320 ext 2  
 Fax (209) 491-9331

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### County Committee (COC)

Dave Wheeler, Chairperson  
 Larry Byrd, Vice Chair  
 Stuart Crook, Member  
 Dale Matney, Member  
 Miguel Garcia, Advisor

#### Next COC Meeting:

July 14th, 2012

#### Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED  
 Maria Juárez, PT  
 Latisha Kahn, PT  
 Joni Worley, PT  
 Carmen Cardenas, PT

#### Farm Loan Staff:

Suzie Wilson, FLM  
 Deanna Martin, FLO  
 Amy Cody, FLO  
 Alma Jaquez, PT  
 Lupe Mims, PT

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA office.

For a list of local offices, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

## Spring/Permanent Crop Certification Deadline July 15, 2012

July 15, 2012 is the final day for producers to certify all spring planted crops (corn, sudan, etc.), permanent plantings (trees, vines, alfalfa, etc.), and native grass for the 2012 crop year.

Crop certifications must be date stamped by the county office or post-marked by July 15, 2012 otherwise a late-filed fee will be assessed. As a reminder, participation in any of the following programs requires annual acreage reports to be on file: DCP/ACRE, SURE & NAP.

To report your spring/permanent planted crops, please contact the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Office at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.



## Production Records Required for Crops with 2012 NAP Coverage!

Producers who purchased 2012 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for harvested crops are required to provide 2011 production records for the insured crop no later than **July 15, 2012** to maintain the Actual Production History (APH) on each unit. Producers who elect not to supply these records will be assigned a percentage of the County Expected Yield (which is generally lower than average for most producers). **Please note that the APH determines the 2012 approved yield and serves as the basis for loss calculations.**

Production records **must** agree with the crop insured by FSA (i.e. if mixed forage is the insured crop, records should not indicate oats). Acceptable production records include: warehouse receipts, sales receipts, harvest invoices, weight tags, scale tickets, etc.

For producers who have previously purchased NAP but did not submit production records from preceding years to FSA, APHs were built using a percentage of the County Expected Yield. These producers may provide past records at the time 2011 production is supplied if they would like the APH to reflect their operations' yields. If an acreage certification is on file for the years in which previous production is received, FSA may reestablish an APH in the current year to reflect actual yields.

**It is important to note that if 2011 production records are not provided by the July 15, 2012 deadline, previously established APHs may incur yield reductions.**

Please contact Joni Worley at (209) 491-9320 ext 124 with any questions.

## FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County Committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county offices implement Farm Bill programs. During their three-year terms, COC Members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. COC Members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers are encouraged to be members of the committee to speak for these potentially underrepresented groups. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA County Committees. Producers can participate in the Stanislaus-Tuolumne FSA COC Election process by nominating an eligible candidate by August 1, 2012.

### Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) up for election this year are:

LAA #2 – Stanislaus County; South of Tuolumne River, West of Hwy 99, East of the San Joaquin River, North of West Main, Fulkerth, Hawkeye and Taylor Roads, including the towns of Hickman, Hughson, Denair, Ceres and part of Modesto.

LAA #4 – All of Tuolumne County.

### Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Causes for ineligibility include being:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or another felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services



To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

If you would like to become a nominee or nominate someone you know, please contact Latisha Kahn at (209) 491-9320 ext 109.

## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity

Producers must notify FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fences, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA or NRCS office at (209) 491-9320. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation), and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

### Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member 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 their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

#### COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

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

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



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### Important Dates to Remember

<b>7/14/2012</b>	Next County Committee Meeting
<b>7/15/2012</b>	Deadline to timely certify spring/summer planted crops and permanent crops (corn, native grass, orchards, etc.)
<b>7/15/12</b>	Deadline to submit 2011 production records for NAP & ACRE
<b>8/1/12</b>	Last day to request a farm reconstitution on all farms with DCP case acres
<b>8/1/12</b>	Final day to submit to the County Office or post-mark FSA-669A COC Nomination Form
<b>Continuous</b>	MILC Program Signup Farm Loans - Direct, Operating & Guaranteed

The U.S. 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."