

August 2012



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Tulare County FSA Updates

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.

Tulare County USDA Service Center

3530 W Orchard Ct
Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: 559-734-8732 Ext. 2
Fax: 559-732-2805

Hours

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

County Committee

Craig Ainley
Mark Heuer
Charlie Pitigliano, Jr.
Alex Garcia - Advisor

County Office Staff

Theresa Barajas PT
Slade Childers FLPT
Becky Garcia CPT
Pat Miller FLO
Yvonne Newman PT
Danielle Parreira PT
James Smith PT
Kelly Solis PT
Lorraine Wilson PT

County Executive Director

Kaye Rydberg

Farm Loan Manager

Tom Roberts

NAP Losses and Deadlines

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing 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), 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.

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.

2013 NAP Application Closing Dates

Forage Seed, Fall Planted Seed Crops 9/1/2012
Camelina 10/31/2012
Onions 12/1/2012
Forage Crops, Intended use of FG 12/1/2012
Forage Crops, Intended use of GZ 12/1/2012
Honey 12/1/2012
Fruit - Nut Tree Crops 12/15/2012
Annuals - 3/1/2013

2014 First NAP Application Closing Date

Avocados 1/1/2013

2013 Crop Reporting Dates

12/15/2012

Perennial Forage (native grasses)

1/2/2013

Honey

1/15/2013

Avocados, Blueberries, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins, Minneola Tangelos, Navel Oranges, Orlando Tangelos, Sweet Oranges, Valencia Oranges

3/15/2013

Wheat Fall-Spring Seeded

Barley & Oats Fall Seeded (Spring Seeded - 7/15/2013)

Alfalfa Seed, Almonds, Apples, Cherries, Figs, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Processing Apricots, Processing Cling Peaches, Processing Freestone Peaches, Prunes, Walnuts

5/15/2013

Grapes and Table Grapes

6/15/2013

Forage Seeding

7/15/2013

Spring Alfalfa Seed, Corn, Cotton, Cotton Extra Long Staple, Cultivated Wild Rice, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Onions, Rice Safflower, Tomatoes, and all other crops

7/31/2013

Raisins

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This process ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the eligibility rules that require program applicants to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These eligibility rules apply to payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

To be eligible, the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** normally make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management on the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule occurs only if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management and;
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members doesn't exceed \$40,000.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, contact your nearest FSA office for details about direct and guaranteed loans.

Ask your current lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your current lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

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.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office farm loan staff.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for 10 years or less
- 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.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements and loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information and loan applications are available at the FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Drought Disaster Assistance

FSA's low-interest emergency loans will help producers recover from losses due to drought, and other natural disasters. The interest rate has been reduced to 2.25 percent, providing a much-needed resource for producers hoping to recover from production and physical losses associated with natural disasters.

To find out more about these loan programs, contact the county office farm loan staff.

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 date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity, whichever is earlier. Beneficial interest means a) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, b) being responsible for loss or damage to the commodity and c) possessing 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 stipulates compliance with the following requirements: conservation and wetland protection; beneficial interest; acreage reporting and minimum grade and quality standards set by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, exist 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 in the loan and denial of future commodity and 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.

Contact our farm program staff for more information.

Electronic Services Available

With Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive both approvals and direct deposit payments within 48 hours.

To participate in these electronic services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private 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.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, contact our office.

Dates To Remember

September 1

Forage Seed, Fall Planted Seed Crops 2013 NAP Application for Coverage Due

September 3

Labor Day Office Closed

October 8

Columbus Day Office Closed

Selected Interest Rates For August 2012

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.25%

Farm Ownership - Direct 3.0%

Emergency - 2.25%

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).