

November 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
Chairperson
Charlie Pitigliano
Vice-Chairperson
Mark Heuer
Member
Craig Ainley
Advisor
Alex Garcia

County Office Staff
Theresa Barajas, PT
Slade Childers, FL PT
Ruth Ford, COT
Becky Garcia, CPT
Pat Miller, FLO
Yvonne Newman, PT
Danielle Parreira, PT
Kelly Solis, PT
Lorraine Wilson, PT

County Executive Director
Kaye Rydberg

Farm Loan Manager

County Committee Voting Begins - Ballots Due Dec. 3

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 3, 2012. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 3, 2012.

The candidates nominated in this year's election for Tulare County are:
Mark Heuer - nominated in LAA 2, and Alex Garcia - nominated in LAA 3.

Eligible voters in (local administrative areas) LAA 2 & LAA 3, who have not received a ballot should contact the Tulare County FSA Office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1** or **2**, *plus 3*, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:
 - An individual
 - The authorized representative of an entity
 - Both spouses when property is owned jointly
 - Spouses in community property states.
2. Is not of legal voting age, *but* supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Applications

Tom Roberts

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through **June 7, 2013**. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 5th, 2012

County Committee ballots mailed

November 12th, 2012

Veteran's Day
Federal Holiday
Office will be closed

November 22nd, 2012

Thanksgiving Day
Federal Holiday
Office will be closed

March 25th, 2013

Hispanic & Women Farmer & Rancher Claims Period Ends

June 7th, 2013

SURE applications due

- farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred at least a 10 percent crop production or quality loss, or both, for at least 1 crop of economic significance, **except** grazed crops;
- farms on which the actual production on the farm, is less than 50 percent of the farm's normal production.

NOTE: *Tulare County is not a declared county for disaster. Therefore an eligible producer will need to meet an overall loss greater than 50% of the actual production on the farm compared to normal production for the farm for the 2011 crop year.*

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.*

A farm or ranch must have 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. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmers may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the 2011 SURE Program, or to set up an appointment to complete a SURE application, please contact the Tulare County FSA Office at (559) 734-8732, extension 2. Additional information is also available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/SURE

2013 NAP Coverage Deadlines

Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) applications vary according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Upcoming NAP application for coverage closing dates, for Tulare County, are as follows:

2013 NAP

12/01/2012: Onions, Forage Crops (Intended use of forage [FG] or grazing [GZ]), and Honey

12/15/2012: Fruit - Nut Tree Crops

03/01/2013: Annuals

2014 First NAP

01/01/2013: Avocados

2013 Crop Reporting Dates

Acreage reporting dates for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crops planted for 2013 harvest. These changes apply to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat. Updated 2013 crop reporting dates for

Tulare County are as follows:

- 12/15/2012:** Perennial Forage (native grasses)
- 01/02/2013:** Honey
- 01/15/2013:** Avocados, Blueberries, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins, Minneola Tangelos, Navel Oranges, Orlando Oranges, Sweet Oranges, Valencia Oranges
- 03/15/2013:** Alfalfa Seed, Almonds, Apples, Apricots (Fresh & Processing), Barley (Fall Seeded), Cherries, Cling Peaches (Processing), Figs, Freestone Peaches (Fresh & Processing), Nectarines (Fresh), Oats (Fall Seeded), Pears, Plums, Prunes, Walnuts, Wheat (Fall-Spring Seeded)
- 05/15/2013:** Grapes & Table Grapes
- 06/15/2013:** Forage Seeding
- 07/15/2013:** Alfalfa (Spring Seeded), Barley (Spring Seeded), Corn, Cotton, Cotton - Extra Long Staple, Cultivated Wild Rice, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Mint, Oats (Spring Seeded), Onions, Rice, Safflower, Tomatoes, and all other crops
- 07/31/2013:** Raisins

Please call the Tulare County FSA Office to schedule an appointment to correctly certify your 2013 crops.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 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.

As announced in February 2011, 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

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.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loan funds are available for operating loans and/or for the purchase or improvement of 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 groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For more information, please contact the Farm Loan Staff in the Tulare County FSA Office.

Selected Farm Loan Interest Rates for November 2012:

Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.125%	
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.125%	
Farm Ownership Loans - <i>Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer/Rancher</i>		1.500%
Emergency Loans - <i>Actual Loss</i>	2.125%	

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).