

February 2013



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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 FSA Office

3530 W. Orchard Ct
Visalia, CA 93277
559-734-8732 Ext. 2 ph
559-732-2805 fax

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Chairperson

Mark Heuer

Vice-Chairperson

Craig Ainley

Member

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

Farm Loan Manager

Tom Roberts

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Click her to [Read more about DCP and ACRE](#). Please call the office for more information and/or to set up an appointment.

MILC Contracts Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. Dairy operations may select a new production start month and to do so please call the office to set up an appointment between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013 (relief period.)

Hispanic and Women Claims of Discrimination

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until March 25, 2013.

County Executive Director
Kaye Rydberg

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.

Dates To Remember

Feb. 18 George Washington's Birthday - Office Closed

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. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. Claimants can obtain a claims package in through the toll-free number or by visiting the website below.

Feb. 19 DCP/ACRE sign-up begins

Feb. 28 MILC Start Month selection (relief period) ends

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Mar. 1 NAP Annual Crops deadline

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.

Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at our office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

SURE Program Status

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011. To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have qualifying losses of at least 10 percent production loss affecting at least one crop of economic significance due to natural disaster on a farm in a disaster county.

Producers outside a declared disaster county are eligible if they experience production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production in the farm. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits. Sign-up ends June 7, 2013. For more information you can give the office a call at 559-734-8732 ext. 2.

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for

such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25%.)

Please give the Farm Loan staff a call for information.

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).