

April 2013



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## Tulare County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from the Tulare County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Tulare County FSA Office

3530 W. Orchard Ct  
Visalia, CA 93277-7055

Phone: 559-734-8732  
Fax: 559-732-2805

#### Hours

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

#### County Committee Chairperson

Mark Heuer

#### Vice-Chairperson

Craig Ainley

#### Member

Alex Garcia

#### Advisor

Robert Sepeda

#### 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

### DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until 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.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact our office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application 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. There are no filing fees to participate in

Kelly Solis, PT  
Lorraine Wilson, PT

the program.

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Tom Roberts

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

**County Executive Director**  
Kaye Rydberg

Website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org)

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org). Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

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## Prevented Planting or Failed Crops

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss form is used to report failed and prevented planting acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing 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) and crop insurance, 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 in order to be considered timely. Acreage reports must also be updated to show the location of the failed or prevented crop.

Producers must establish that all cropland feasible to plant but prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Preliminary efforts made by the producer to plant the crop must be evident, such as disking the land, arranging for seed/fertilizer delivery or financing documents.

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## Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at our office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, please contact the office by June 1.

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## Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a

microloan should call our office or come by and talk to our Farm Loan staff.

Read two stories showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

- 1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#),
- 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

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## 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.

For more information you can stop by or call our county office, and ask for someone from our Farm Loan staff.

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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).



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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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