

## **Emergency Conservation Program Authorized for Rim Fire Damage**

The Stanislaus-Tuolumne Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee recently requested and was granted authorization to administer the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) as a result of the significant damage caused by the Rim Fire in Tuolumne County. ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and rangeland damaged by natural (and other causes addressed via waiver) disasters.

ECP participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75% of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Emergency conservation practices included in this authorization are:

- EC1- Removing Debris from Farmland
- EC3- Restoring Permanent Fences (reduction in cost share percentage applied for age)
- EC4- Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations (such as permanently installed irrigation systems, etc)

Individual requests for cost-share assistance of \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity, per disaster are approved at the County Committee level. Cost-share assistance requests exceeding \$50,000 require approval from the State Committee or National Office level. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity, per disaster. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.

Please contact the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Office at (209) 491-9320 ext 2 if the Rim Fire (that began August 17, 2013 and was contained October 24, 2013) caused significant damage to your farm/ranch or if you have any questions regarding ECP. **Applications for ECP are being accepted through February 7, 2014.**