



USDA e-News

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September 2013 - California Edition

Welcome to the United States Department of Agriculture *e-News, California Edition*, a multi-agency newsletter providing the most current information to California's producers and other interested parties.

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Featured Item

[NASS Visits Farms for CEAP Survey October - February](#)

Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2013 National Resources Inventory Conservation Effects Assessment Project (NRI-CEAP) survey of farming and conservation practices. The 2013 NRI-CEAP will take place in the California Bay Delta watershed area with a primary focus on the Sacramento River Watershed, the San Joaquin River Watershed, and the Tulare Lake Basin Watershed. NASS representatives will visit approximately 1,732 farms in California and 32 farms in Oregon from October through February 2014 to collect information about on-farm conservation practices. To find out more visit the [NASS CEAP website](#) or contact your nearest NASS office.

Updates

[NRCS Assistance - Now Is A Good Time](#)

As the west continues to experience repeated dry winters, it is important to conserve water as efficiently as possible. Now is a good time for producers to visit their local NRCS Service Center to discuss conservation needs and request a conservation plan. A conservation plan is an excellent way to begin the process. An NRCS specialist will visit your property, discuss your on-farm concerns and create a personalized roadmap for helping you implement conservation solutions for the future. There are many variables contributing to whether the proposed conservation solutions are economically or operationally feasible. Some issues include timing, labor, equipment, materials, and overall economics. Typically, adopting conservation practices makes economic sense relative to the farm's long-term goals. In many cases, Farm Bill funding may be available to help offset the cost of installing the conservation practices. NRCS has a long history of helping the Western agricultural community with technical and financial assistance and we will be able to help you too! Contact your nearest NRCS Field Office for more information and to begin the conservation planning process. For a directory of local offices, visit the [NRCS website](#) and open "Contact Us."

[The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data](#)

Web Soil Survey 3.0 has been released! Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in

the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

[Sales Closing Date Nears for Crop Insurance Programs](#)

Sales closing dates for several crop insurance programs are almost here. Please make sure to sign up, review, or change your crop policy before these dates have passed. **September 30** is the last day to buy or change your policy for Cultivated Wild Rice (Lassen, Modoc, and Shasta Counties), Mint (Winter Coverage Option), and Wheat (Winter for Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties). For more information contact your agent or you can find an agent on the [RMA website](#).

[Second Phase-Agricultural Resource Management Survey \(ARMS\) Begins Soon](#)

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), conducted by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS), is USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households. The second phase of ARMS (ARMS II) will begin in October 2013 and continue through mid-December. NASS representatives will interview approximately 200 rice producers in California as part of a national effort to gather data on chemical use and other production practices, as well as cost of production information. To find out more, visit the [NASS ARMS website](#) or contact your nearest NASS office.

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[MicroLoans Available for Farmers and Ranchers](#)

The Farm Service Agency now has a streamlined loan program designed to assist beginning and smaller farmers and ranchers. The FSA MicroLoan has reduced paperwork, improved eligibility criteria and a low interest rate to fund agricultural needs of \$35,000 or less. For operations who sell their crops at Farmers' Markets or through Community Supported Agriculture operations (CSAs), the MicroLoan program could be a great financial option to consider. Farmers can use MicroLoan funds for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation supplies, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. The current interest rate is 1.25%, a great benefit for farmers and ranchers who are just starting out, need capital, and are operating on a tight budget. To find out more, visit [FSA's MicroLoan website](#) or contact your nearest FSA Office.

[Reports and Publications](#)

[CalAgTour.org directory and free event listing](#)

You are missing out on some free publicity if your agritourism operation and events are not listed in UC ANR's Agritourism Directory, [CalAgTour.org](#). If you are a working farmer or rancher operating an agritourism business or organizing agritourism events, we invite you to complete the [directory application](#) or the [event listing](#) application online so you can be included in the directory. Listings and event postings are free.

[NASS Reports](#)

[Walnut Objective Measurement Report](#) (9/5/2013)

[Crop Production](#) (9/12/2013)

[Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report](#) (9/12/2013)

[Land Values & Cash Rents](#) (9/13/2013)

[Fruit & Nut Review](#) (9/17/2013)

[Field Crop Review](#) (9/18/2013)

[Livestock Review](#) (9/26/2013)

[Poultry Report](#) (9/30/2013)

Other Activities & Events

CEAP Survey Efforts Underway, Enumerators Visit Farms in October

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About Us

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Risk Management Agency (RMA)

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Contact Us

If you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters or if you have relevant information for California producers that you want to include in a future issue of this newsletter, please email one of the contacts listed below. Please be advised that not all activities may be published.

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