

October 2012



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

## Kings County Farm Service Agency Updates

### Kings County FSA Office 2013 Crop Reporting Dates

680 Campus Dr Suite C  
Hanford, CA 93230

Acres reporting deadline dates have changed starting with the 2013 crop year. Please refer to the table below:

Phone: 559-585-8732

Fax: 559-584-8715

County Executive Director:  
Kathy L Sargent

#### Program Technicians:

Joan Avila

Winifred Brogan

Nathan Olson

Lillian Sanchez

#### Farm Loan Manager:

(located in Visalia Office)

Tom Roberts

Crop	Practice/Final Plant Dates	Reporting Deadlines
Perennial Forage (Alfalfa), Native Grass & Clover		December 15, 2012
Honey		January 2, 2013
Sugar Beets	Planted 9/1-12/31	January 15, 2013
Citrus Crops		January 15, 2013
Wheat/Barley/Oats	Fall Seeded	March 15, 2013
Alfalfa Seed, Almonds, Apples, Cherries, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Prunes, Walnuts		March 15, 2013
Grapes		May 15, 2013
Sugar Beets	Planted 1/1-4/30	May 15, 2013
Corn, Cotton, Dry Beans, Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Onions, Safflower and all other crops		July 15, 2013
Sugar Beets	Planted 5/1-6/30	July 15, 2013

#### Farm Loan Staff:

Patricia Miller

Slade Childers

## County Committee Elections

If you farm in the Corcoran area, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible Corcoran area voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close

**County Committee:** of business on Dec.3, 2012.

Peter Rietkerk

Ceil Howe III

Ralph Alcala Jr.

Michael Miya - Advisor

---

## 2012 Direct & Counter Cyclical Payments

DCP payments for 2012 are currently being processed. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

---

## Crop Disaster Assistance for 2011 Crop

The sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will open October 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011. This program is not applicable to grazed crops.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have at least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; 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; and have been located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production due to a natural disaster.

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

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the **June 7, 2013** deadline. For more information on the 2011 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure)

---

## Application Deadline for NRCS Conservation Programs Fast Approaching

For those farmers, ranchers, landowners and Tribes who are interested in applying for Fiscal Year 2013 Farm Bill conservation program financial assistance, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California has set Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, as the deadline for funding consideration for the 2013 fund cycle.

This deadline includes applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) priorities, the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program and the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. Applications received after November 16 may be considered for funding if California receives additional funds during the year.

NRCS's conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, improve irrigation efficiency, improve water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP, NRCS's largest conservation program, helps landowners plan and implement conservation practices that address a wide range of natural resource concerns and provide opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

You can contact the Kings County NRCS office to apply at 680 Campus Drive Suite E, Hanford CA 93230. You may also reach NRCS by phone at (559) 585-8732 Ext 3.

---

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's sales closing date. The final closing dates for purchasing NAP coverage are coming up:

2013 NAP Application Closing Dates	
Crops	Closing Date
Onions	December 1, 2012
Forage Crops, Intended Use of Hay (Mechanically Harvested) and Forage Crops, Intended Use of Grazing	December 1, 2012
Honey	December 1, 2012
Asparagus, Artichokes, Herbs	December 15, 2012
Fruit - Nut Tree Crops including Cherries, Kiwi, Olives, Persimmons, Pistachios, Pomegranates & Strawberries	December 15, 2012
Apples	January 31, 2013

---

## USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between **September 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) **Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

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.

---

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).