

October 2012



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Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Office 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.

Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Office

Office Address:

44811 N. Date Ave., Suite B
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Phone: 661-942-9549 ext. 2

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County Executive Director:
Doug Brand

Program Technician:
Marilynn Wells

County Committee:
Terry Munz
Richard Manassero
Paul Johnson
Patricia Van Dam

Advisor:
Bennie Moore, Jr.

Office Hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday

County FSA Committee Elections

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

The area served by the Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Committee is divided into four Local Administrative Areas (LAA). This year, LAA #3 (Orange County and Southern Los Angeles County) and LAA#4 (Northern Los Angeles County) are up for election.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on **December 3, 2012.**

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

If the payments were subject to voluntary withholdings or subject to backup (involuntary) withholdings, a Form 1099-G will be issued regardless of the total amount of the payments.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmers and

Ranchers Claim Period

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

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

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.

2013 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2013 NAP coverage for a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. The closing dates for **Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties** are summarized for the specific crops below:

NAP Crops	2013 Application Closing Dates
Strawberries	October 1, 2012
Forage/Hay Crops (Intended use as Hay – Mechanically Harvested)	December 1, 2012
Honey	December 1, 2012
Onions	December 1, 2012
Forage Crops (Intended use of Grazing)	December 1, 2012
Grazing	December 1, 2012
Almonds, Apricots, Kiwis, Cherries, Mint, Olives, Nectarines	December 15, 2012
Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Pistachios, Plums,	December 15, 2012
2014 Avocados/Citrus	January 1, 2013
Apples	January 31, 2013
All other 2013 Annual Crops	March 1, 2013

The cost for coverage is now \$250 per crop per producer with a \$750 cap per county, not to exceed \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2012 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2013, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop

shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

For more information and specific NAP crop deadlines, contact our FSA office.

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).