

November 2012



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Merced-Mariposa County FSA 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.

Office Location

2926 G Street, Suite 103
Merced, CA 95340-2110

Contact Information

Phone (209) 722-4119 ext. 2
Fax (209) 722-0974

Hours

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

County Committee (COC)

Simon Vanderwoude,
Chairperson

Arthur W. Richards, Vice Chair

RoseAnn Serrano, Member

NAP Coverage Deadlines

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, by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance, where Federal crop insurance is not available. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who purchased coverage for 2012 NAP crops can 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 do not already have coverage may purchase insurance by the applicable closing dates as well. **2013 NAP application closing dates are as follows:**

2013 NAP Coverage Crops	Closing Dates
Forage Crops/Hay/Native Rangeland (Intended use of Grazing & Forage, i.e. Oats, Wheat & Mixed Forage) Onions Honey	12/1/2012
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops (i.e. Kiwi, Cane berries) Strawberries	12/15/2012
2014 Avocados & Citrus	1/1/2013

As a reminder, producers who purchase NAP coverage must remember

Pasquale Palazzo, Member

Jose D. Vazquez, Advisor

Farm Program Staff:

Joe Grillo, CED

Lydia Swilley, PT

Gizela Gover, PT

Lenai Mull, PT

Tina Frey, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM

Aileen Garcia, FLO

Laura Westerfield, FLO

Phyllis Boyle, PT

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA office.

For a list of local offices, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Notify our office within 15 days of a qualifying loss or within 15 days of the loss being apparent.
- Provide proof of harvested production each year using acceptable methods, such as packing house recipes, farmers market sales reports, etc.
- Timely file acreage reports

If you would like more information regarding NAP coverage, please contact Lydia Swilley at ext 108.

NEW! 2013 Crop Reporting Dates

Please note that crop reporting dates have changed for the 2013 year and the first few deadlines are fast approaching. The New 2013 crop reporting deadlines are listed below:

Crop	Practice/Final Plant Dates	Reporting Deadlines
Perennial Forage (Alfalfa), Native Grass & Clover		December 15, 2012
Honey		January 2, 2013
Strawberries	8/16 – 11/15	January 15, 2013
Wheat	Fall or Spring Seeded	March 15, 2013
Barley & Oats	Fall Seeded Spring Seeded	March 15, 2013 July 15, 2013
Almonds, Walnuts, Apples, Cherries, Apricots, Peaches		March 15, 2013
Grapes & Table Grapes		May 15, 2013
Corn, Dry Beans, Rice, Onions & Tomatoes		July 15, 2013

** Please contact our office for crop reporting deadlines not listed

Please contact our office at ext 2 if you have any questions about the new deadlines.

Secretarial Natural Disaster Declaration

On July 12, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a natural disaster designation, S3268 which includes the Mariposa, Merced, and Madera Counties. This action is based on damages and losses caused by drought. Deadline to submit an application for this designation is March 12, 2013.

On August 3, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a natural disaster designation, S3320, which includes the Mariposa, Merced, and Madera Counties. This action is based on damages and losses caused by hail, rain, and cold temperatures, which occurred on April 11, 2012 through April 13, 2012. Deadline to submit an application for this designation is April 3, 2013.

On September 5, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a natural disaster designation, S3379, which includes the Mariposa and Merced Counties. This action is based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on January 1, 2012, and continuing. Deadline to submit an application for this designation is May 6, 2013.

Applicants must have at least 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the designation; be able to repay the loan and any other loans; be unable to obtain credit elsewhere; have adequate security; have multi-peril crop insurance, if available; and, meet other eligibility criteria.

All applicants must complete a certification of disaster loss or damage.

Current borrowers that have suffered a loss from one of the above designations may apply for Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) and meet the eligibility requirements.

For more information please contact our Farm Loan staff at ext. 2.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Ranchers Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack 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.

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.

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).