



## Elk Grove Farm Service Agency Office

Serving Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado & Placer Counties

9701 Dino Drive Suite 170, Elk Grove, CA. 95624 • Phone (916) 714-1104 • fax (916) 714-1117

### County Committee Voting Begins - Ballots Due Dec. 3

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 3, 2012. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 3, 2012.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1, 3 or 5 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

**1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity
- Both spouses when property is owned jointly
- Spouses in community property states.

**2.** Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

**3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

**Discrimination Prohibited** - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA. The crop insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, for SURE Payment the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## 2013 NAP Coverage Deadlines

Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) applications vary according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. **Contact your local FSA office for the NAP filing dates coming up soon for specific crops in your region.**

## 2013 Crop Reporting

Acreage reporting dates for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. Depending on your crop and region, the new acreage reporting date may be as early as Nov. 15, 2012. These changes apply to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat. Please call your local office to schedule an appointment to check on deadlines and correctly certify your 2013 crops. See Page 4 of this newsletter for deadlines.

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

**USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 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

**Claims Period: Sept. 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.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest until the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity, whichever is first. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling in the loan for full payment and denial of future farm-stored loans.

## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a

delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

### Unauthorized Disposition of Grain Held as Collateral

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

### Receive News Electronically via GovDelivery

Many producers have already enrolled in the new GovDelivery system that provides notices, newsletters and reminders via email. Its free and its instant and can be sent to your home or office.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

If you haven't signed up yet, do so now. And encourage your neighbors to subscribe to receive free e-mail updates instantly: [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe)

### Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## 2013 Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado & Placer County Crop Reporting Deadlines

	2012			2013						
	September		December	January		March	May		June	July
	15	30	15	2	15	15	15	31	15	15
Commodity Crops						Fall Barley Wheat				Spring Barley Corn Cotton Cotton Extra Long Staple Dry Beans Grain Sorghum Spring Oats Rice Safflower
						Fall Oats				
			Perennial Forage			Alfalfa Seed			Forage Seeding	Spring Alfalfa Seed
					Avocados Blueberries Grapefruit Lemons Mandarins Minneola Tangelos Navel Oranges Orlando Tangelos Sweet Oranges Valencia Oranges Strawberries (6/15-8/12)	Almonds Apples Apricots (PA) Apricots (FH) Cherries Figs Pears Plums Freestone Peaches (FH) Fresh Nectarines Cling Peaches (PA) Freestone Peaches (PA) Prunes Walnuts	Grapes			Cultivated Wild Rice Mint Onions Tomatoes Fresh Market Tomatoes Strawberries (All Other)
NAP Dates		Value Loss		Honey					Nursery	
All Other Crops										All Other Crops

**NOTICE  
TO HISPANIC  
AND/OR  
WOMEN  
FARMERS OR  
RANCHERS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR CLAIMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loan funds are available for operating loans and/or for the purchase or improvement of farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities.

**Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado and Placer  
2013 Crop Reporting Deadlines**

Perennial Forage	Dec 15
Honey	Jan 2
Citrus	Jan 15
Fall Seeded Forage Crops	Mar 15
Fruit and Nut Tree Crops	Mar 15
Alfalfa for Seed	Mar 15
Grapes	May 15
All other Crops	July 15

**Dates to Remember**

Nov 5	County Committee ballots mailed
Nov 12	Veteran Day Federal Holiday
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday
Dec. 3	COC Ballots due to FSA Office
March 25, 2013	Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period ends.
June 7, 2012	SURE applications due

**County Office Staff**

**County Executive Director**  
Ted Van Steyn

**Program Technicians**  
Ruth Ford  
Danielle Le Roux  
Jesse Simoes

**County Committee**  
Tommy McClellan LAA1  
Joseph Sanchez Jr. LAA2  
Michael Passmore LAA3  
Lloyd Oneto LAA4  
Barbara Hofman LAA5  
Toshiharu Kuratomi LAA6  
John Caswell LAA7

**COC Advisor**  
Saeng Zuex

“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”