

December 2012



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Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Updates

Office Location

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E

Modesto, CA 95358

Phone (209) 491-9320 ext 2

Fax (209) 491-9331

Hours

Monday - Friday

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

IMPORTANT: Crop Certification Deadline December 15, 2012

December 15, 2012 is the final day for producers to timely certify **Perennial Forages** (Alfalfa, Native Grass & Clover) for the 2013 crop year. As previously communicated, this is a new deadline date starting with crop year 2013.

Crop certifications must be date-stamped by the county office or post-marked by December 15, 2012 to be considered timely filed. However, because of the significant changes in some crop reporting dates (like perennial forages) for 2013, late-filed fees will not be charged through June 30, 2013 (**this is understood to be a one-time exception only**). Participation in most USDA programs has evolved to require annual acreage reports be on file; as we await a new/renewed Farm Bill, timely filing acreage reports is advisable.

To report your perennial forage crops, please contact the Stanislaus-Tuolumne County FSA Office at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.

County Committee (COC)

Dave Wheeler, Chairperson

Larry Byrd, Vice Chair

Stuart Crook, Member

Dale Matney, Member

Miguel Garcia, Advisor

Prevented Planting Certification

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage (with proper equipment) by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. If you are unable to plant your crop due to an adverse weather disaster and would like to certify your acreage to prevented planting with the Farm Service Agency, you will be required to do the following:

- Report the acreage and file the CCC-576 within **15 calendar days** of the final planting date for the specified crop
- Supply crop insurance indemnity information to FSA once received, if applicable

Next COC Meeting:

December 6, 2012

Some insurance companies request that producers who file prevented planting claims have a corresponding acreage certification on file with FSA. A new Farm Bill will dictate which FSA programs will be available for prevented planting; however, it is always beneficial to maintain history on a farm.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Joni Christensen at ext 124.

Farm Program Staff:

Jonna Spaletta, CED

Carmen Cardenas, PT

Maria Juárez, PT

Latisha Kahn, PT

Joni Christensen, PT

2013 Ag Census

The Census of Agriculture is conducted once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within the government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts **everyone** across our nation.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by February 4, 2013.

Farm Loan Staff:

Suzie Wilson, FLM

Deanna Martin, FLO

Amy Cody, FLO

Alma Jaquez, PT

Lupe Mims, PT

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at www.agcensus.usda.gov. For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

New Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that as of Oct. 1, 2012 the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,302,000. This limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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

The FSA overall lending ceiling increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is now \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. Producers can contact the local FSA county offices with questions about farm loans.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other loan questions, please contact the Farm Loan Staff at (209) 491-9320 ext 2.



Emergency Farm Loans (EM)

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can provide emergency loans to eligible producers to help recover from production and physical losses due to certain disasters. **Note- all applicants must meet specific eligibility requirements and qualifying losses must be suffered to be considered for an EM loans.** Production losses of 30% or more must be suffered and physical losses must be directly attributed to the stated disaster designation. There are outstanding disaster declarations at this time; a summary has been provided below:

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

Stanislaus-Tuolumne County:

- S3379 Drought 1/1/12 and continuing
- S3320 Hail, rain and cold temperatures 4/11/12- 4/13/12
- S3268 Drought beginning 2/12/12

Stanislaus County Only:

- S3248 Drought covering 2012 crop year

Tuolumne County Only:

- S3351 Drought 6/26/12-8/20/2012



All declarations have a deadline to apply for EM loan assistance. Further information can be obtained regarding EM loans by contacting the Farm Loan Staff at (209) 491-9320 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).