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May 2013

USDA e-News

California Edition



Welcome to USDA e-News, California Edition, a multi-agency newsletter providing California's producers and other interested parties with current information from the following USDA agencies:



Farm Service Agency



Natural Resources
Conservation Service



National Agricultural
Statistics Service



Risk Management
Agency



Rural Development

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Featured Item

[It's Time to Learn about USDA Summer Meals for Kids and Teens In Rural California](#)

Did you know that USDA has resources that can assist in reducing hunger and promoting the health of your community's youth through participation in Summer Meals? USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP) operates through partnerships between USDA, state agencies and local organizations. Local sponsors, such as schools, local government agencies, faith-based and nonprofit community organizations, and residential and non-residential camps provide free meals and activities to eligible low-income children during the summer months. FNS is putting on a webinar on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 from 1pm to 2 pm to provide more information about the program. You can register for the webinar at:

<http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/17fb9g536c5>.

[NRCS accepting applications for landowners in Calleguas Creek and Salt River Watersheds](#)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California will invest \$1.7 million to improve water quality in the Calleguas Creek and Salt River watersheds. This is the second year that the NRCS National Water Quality Initiative is providing accelerated assistance to landowners in these watersheds. Completed applications will be screened and ranked in two batch periods, on June 21 and July 12, 2013. Applications received by June 21 will receive first priority and, if additional funds remain, those received by July 12 may also receive funding consideration. Eligible farmers and ranchers should visit <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> or contact their local NRCS office for additional information on eligible practices and to submit an application.

Updates

[Sales Closing Date Nears for Crop Insurance Programs](#)

Sales closing dates for several crop insurance programs are almost here. Please make sure to sign up, review, or change your crop policy before these dates have passed. **May 31st** is the last day to buy or change your policy for Potatoes (summer planted) for San Joaquin County. For more information contact your agent or you can find an agent on the [RMA website](#).

Funding Opportunities

[New MicroLoans for Farmers and Ranchers](#)

The Farm Service Agency now has a streamlined loan program designed to assist beginning and smaller farmers and ranchers. The FSA MicroLoan has reduced paperwork, improved eligibility criteria and a low interest rate to fund agricultural needs of \$35,000 or less. Farmers can use MicroLoan funds for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation supplies, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Streamlined paperwork and an extremely low interest rate are great benefits for farmers and ranchers who are just starting out, need capital, and are operating on a tight budget. To find out more, visit [FSA's MicroLoan website](#) or contact your nearest FSA Office.

[USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\) Deadline is extended for grants to May 31, 2013](#)

The Notice of Funding Availability ([NOFA](#)) was published March 29, 2013. Financial assistance, grant and loan guarantees, is available to eligible agriculture producers and rural small businesses for the development and construction of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvement projects; as well as renewable energy system feasibility studies.

To be considered for Fiscal Year 2013 funds, applications must be received in the California State Office, 430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, no later than 4:30pm PST May 31, 2013 for grants; and July 15, 2013 for loan guarantees.

Reports and Publications

California NRCS Technical Resources include Information, Tools, Models and Data. Please see <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/> for more information.

[Almond Subjective Forecast \(5/2/2013\)](#)

[Raisin Grape Overhead Trellis Report \(5/6/2013\)](#)

[Floriculture Report \(5/9/2013\)](#)

[Walnut Acreage Report \(5/23/2013\)](#)

[Processing Tomato Report \(5/24/2013\)](#)

Other Activities & Events

USDA Webinar Series for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry

The Agricultural Marketing Service's Fruit and Vegetable Program invites you to take part in a series of free, interactive webinars on our many programs and services. At each webinar, you'll hear a presentation from a USDA expert on a specific topic, be introduced to our staff, and take part in an interactive question and answer session. These informative webinars are designed for fruit and vegetable growers, packers, shippers, processors, wholesalers and retailers of all sizes. All of the webinars are free and available to anyone with Internet access. Registration is, however, required and space is limited. Log on today to register - it's your first step to gaining a competitive edge and learning how we can work together to meet your unique business needs. If you miss a webinar, just visit our Webinar Archive to watch it online. Take a look at all we have to offer. Follow the links next to the webinar titles below for full information on each session and to register. We'll see you online!

- **How to Sell Fruits and Vegetables to the USDA**
 - June 27, 2013 2:00-3:00 pm (EST)
 - To Register: <http://bit.ly/145Arm2>

- **Market News: New Custom Average Tool Explained**
 - July 25, 2013 - 2:00-3:00 pm (EST)
 - To Register: <http://bit.ly/13xKKLm>

- **The PACA* Complaint Process - An Interactive Discussion**
 - August 22, 2013 - 2:00-3:00 pm (EST)
 - To Register: <http://bit.ly/1310pNP>

About Us

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

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Risk Management Agency (RMA)

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Rural Development (RD)

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Contact US

If you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters or if you have relevant information for California producers that you want to include in a future issue of this newsletter, please email one of the contacts listed below. Please be advised that not all activities may be published.

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