

August 2013



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Merced/Mariposa County FSA Updates

Office Location:

2926 G Street Suite 103
Merced, CA 95340-2110
Phone: (209)-722-4119 Ext. 2
Fax: (209)-722-0974

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee (COC)

Arthur Richards, Chairperson
RoseAnn Serrano, Vice Chair
Simon Vander Woude, Member
Pasquale Palazzo, Member
Jose Vazquez, Advisor

Next COC Meeting:

September, 2013

Farm Program Staff:

Garrett Pedretti, CED
Lydia Swilley, PT
Gizela Meirinho-Gover, PT
Lenai Mull, PT
Tina Frey, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM
Aileen Garcia, FLO
Laura Westerfield, FLOT
Phyllis Boyle, PT

DCP Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP has been extended and is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up **before the extended Sept. 16, 2013, deadline.**

For an appointment or more information, contact the FSA county office.

New County Executive Director

The Merced/Mariposa Farm Service Agency would like to welcome Mr. Garrett Pedretti as the new County Executive Director. Mr. Pedretti has been with the USDA Farm Service Agency for three years, and recently left his position as the County Executive Director in Kern County to accept this position. Mr. Pedretti grew up in El Nido on his family's farming and ranching operation where they grow cotton, silage corn, hay, raise Hereford beef cattle, and have a dairy operation. From a young age he has held a strong appreciation for agriculture, and always knew he wanted a career in the industry. Since Merced and Mariposa Counties have a large diversity of crops and agriculture, he is excited to be in this area.

Mr. Pedretti looks forward to working in Merced and Mariposa Counties and meeting all of the fine producers the area has to offer. So, if you have any questions or concerns, or just want to drop in and personally welcome Mr. Pedretti, feel free to stop by the office anytime.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Starting with 2012, a combined overall income exceeding \$1 million excludes participation in DCP or ACRE.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits.

This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

A partial disbursement of loan funds is available prior to the final disbursement. The partial disbursement can occur after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or

www.fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Loans - Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations

As a result of these designations, the counties listed are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

The following current disaster designations have been declared by the Secretary of Agriculture:

Date Declared: 12/19/2012

Designation Code: S3452

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2012, and continuing.

Final Date to Apply: 08/19/2013

Date Declared: 02/27/2013

Designation Code: S3491

Disaster Description: Merced and Madera Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2013, through February 25, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 10/28/2013

Date Declared: 04/24/2013

Designation Code: S3511

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred February 26, 2013, through April 22, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 12/24/2013

Date Declared: 07/03/2013

Designation Code: S3547

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on May 5, 2013, through July 1, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 03/03/2014

Some of the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the cited cause,
- 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 all other eligibility criteria.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).