

July 2015

# USDA e-News

## California Edition



United States Department of Agriculture

*Welcome to USDA e-News, California Edition, a multi-agency newsletter providing California's producers and other interested parties with current information.*

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## Updates

### [FSA Now Accepting Nominations for Committee Member Election](#)

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun to solicit and accept nominations to run and serve on the Agency's County or Area Committees. Farmers, ranchers and program participants are eligible to serve. Nominations will be accepted through **August 3, 2015**. More information and the nomination form, FSA-669A, can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or from your local FSA office.

### [Federal Marketing Order Information Now Available](#)

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has written two new posts for the USDA blog on federal marketing orders. Read the discussion of protections for the US olive industry in [USDA Marketing Order Provides Ingredients for Olive Industry's Success](#). And you can read about federal marketing orders for fruit and vegetable farmers in [USDA Celebrates Mothers, Farmers, and Industry Leaders](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### [Applications Being Accepted for Value Added Producer Grant Funding](#)

Ag producers, farmer or rancher co-ops and agricultural trade associations still have time to apply for funding under the Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG). Funds can help

agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program. Priority is given for beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or if you are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition. The maximum grant amount is \$75,000 for planning grants and \$250,000 for working capital grants. Matching funds are required for 50 percent of total project costs. Applications are due by close of business on **July 7, 2015**. More information is available on [Rural Development's website](#) or by contacting Martin Zone at 530-792-5829.

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

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers that the final dates to apply for crop insurance on most insurable summer-planted crops are fast approaching. Producers need to purchase, review, or modify their crop insurance policies before these sales closing dates have passed. Crop insurance provides protection against crop production losses due to natural perils such as drought, hail, and excessive moisture. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. The last day to buy or change your policy for Forage Seeding and Raisins is **July 31, 2015**. For more information contact your agent or you can find an agent online at the RMA [Agent Locator](#).

## **NASS Reports**

- [Crop Production](#) (7/10/15)
- [Fruit and Nut Review](#) (7/23/15)
- [Field Crop Review](#) (7/23/15)
- [Livestock Review](#) (7/30/15)
- [Poultry Report](#) (7/30/15)

## **About Us**

### **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**

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### **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

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## **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

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## **Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

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## **Rural Development (RD)**

- [Overview of Programs](#)

## **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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