

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](#)



Committed to the future of rural communities.

[Rural Development](#)

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Updates

[USDA Assistance to Help Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by Drought](#)

USDA agencies have been working for weeks with state and local officials, as well as individuals, businesses, farmers and ranchers, as they begin the process of helping to get people back on their feet. USDA offers a variety of resources for states and individuals affected by the recent disasters. For additional information and updates about USDA's efforts, please visit www.usda.gov/drought

[Web Soil Survey Results Available](#)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. For more information and to access soil survey information, please see: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

[Best Management Practices for Invasive Plant Prevention](#)

In an effort funded in large part through grants from US Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Division, the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) has developed a new manual

"Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers." The document can be downloaded at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention/landmanagers.php>.

USDA Claims Processes

Hispanic and Women's Claims Process

To obtain a claims package call 1-888-508-4429. You can also visit www.farmerclaims.gov to submit your information online. For more information see our [blog post](#) in English and [Spanish](#).

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation

For current information about this settlement, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement

For current information about this settlement, please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Development Accepting Applications for Farm Labor Housing

USDA Rural Development announced it is now accepting pre-applications for the Section 514 Farm Labor Housing (FLH) Loan and Section 516 FLH Grant Programs to build or rehabilitate rental housing for domestic farm workers. Loans and grants may be made to nonprofit corporations including cooperatives, public bodies, housing authorities, federally recognized tribes and limited partnerships with a nonprofit general partner. The application deadline is **September 17, 2012**. For more information and to view the announcement, please visit the [Federal Register](#) or contact Debra Moretton at debra.moretton@ca.usda.gov or 530-885-6505 ext 109.

Reports and Publications

NASS Reports

[Mid-Year Field Crop Results](#) (07/06)

[Crop Production Report](#) (07/11)

[Citrus Acreage Report](#) (7/13)

[Fruit & Nut Review](#) (07/17)

[Field Crop Review](#) (07/17)

[Livestock Review](#) (07/31)

[Poultry Report](#) (07/31)

Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities

"[Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities](#)" is a collaborative effort among USDA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. It highlights federal resources rural communities can use to promote economic competitiveness, protect healthy environments modernize infrastructure and provide services to residents.

[Nursery Manual for Native Plants: A Guide for Tribal Nurseries](#)

This handbook covers all aspects of managing a native plant nursery, from initial planning through crop production to establishing trials to improving nursery productivity into the future. It was written to assist Native Americans in growing native plants and draws extensively on tribal activities for the many photos and specific examples in the text. Download your copy at: <http://www.rngr.net/publications/tribal-nursery-manual>

[Agroforestry Handbook now Available](#)

A new, first-of-its-kind practical agroforestry handbook, "Profitable Farms and Woodlands" containing information to help establish, manage and market agroforestry projects that are profitable and sustainable over time has just been released and posted on-line. Sponsored by NRCS in collaboration with the US Forest Service, the handbook covers several agroforestry practices and provides explanations on how to earn income by growing medicinal plants and mushrooms and cultivating bee products, for example. It also covers information on responsible land ownership. To download a copy of this 85-page publication visit the USDA National Agroforestry Center website at <http://nac.unl.edu/>.

[Food Hubs & Values Based Supply Chains: A Toolkit for California Farmers and Ranchers](#)

The University of California Davis Ag Sustainability Institute (ASI) and the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP) developed this report describing some of the values-based supply chain enterprises in California, and analyzing the benefits and constraints of these new marketing opportunities for farmers and ranchers. This project was funded through a grant from USDA Rural Development. You can download a copy of the report here: <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/sfs/VBSC%20farmer%20toolkit%207.27.12.pdf>.

Other Activities & Events

[Co-op Day at the Capitol](#)

USDA Rural Development is joining together with partners to host "Co-op Day at the Capitol" on **Tuesday, August 21, 2012** from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm on the West Steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento. This event is open to the public and will feature a variety of co-ops showcasing their products and the many roles co-ops play in our lives. A brief program at 11:30 am will feature California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross. Visit <http://www.cccd.coop/announcements/posts/628> for more information.

[The National Christmas Tree Association Conference in Sacramento, CA](#)

The National Christmas Tree Association, in partnership with USDA-Risk Management Agency, will be holding their national convention **August 8-11**, in the "City of Trees" – Sacramento, CA. This convention and trade show draws growers, retailers and related industry from around the world for education, networking, farm tours, contests and more. Funding for this conference came from a grant awarded through the USDA Risk Management Education and Outreach Program, which is designed to help ensure the survival of small, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other under-served farmers and women veterans. Go to <http://www.christmastree.org/convention2012.cfm> for more information.

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Contact US

If you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters or 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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