COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES
Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weighs & Measures

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Monthly Update - June 2021

COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES AFFECTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Bring COVID-19 Vaccine and Prevention Education to Your Employees
CONTACT: Javier Alfaro: 805.264.2163, jalfaro@co.slo.ca.us

Now is the time to help workers connect with the COVID-19 vaccine. The County's mobile vaccine team is ready to bring a vaccine team to your work site, and health educators can meet with employees ahead of time to answer questions, talk about concerns, and provide information about the vaccine and COVID-19 prevention. The County will work with you to identify a time and place and will bring all the needed supplies and staff. The mobile clinic and vaccine are available at no cost to you or your employees. You are welcome to invite employees' families as well.

For more information, or to set up a clinic, please contact Javier Alfaro at the contact info listed above.

The San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to distribute masks to local Agricultural Workers
CONTACT: Tom Morgan, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.4120; OR, you can contact Manuel Mendoza, Agricultural Inspector/Biologist: 805.781.1550

Since May 2020, we have distributed hundreds of thousands of surgical masks to local agricultural workers to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We still have a small inventory of these disposable masks and will continue distribution to local SLO County growers and ag businesses that need them as long as supplies remain. These are disposable face masks that would be most beneficial for harvest crews and other workers that are operating in areas where it is difficult to meet COVID-19 related guidelines.

We also have N-95 masks available. These masks were originally obtained by CDFA to help fill the void in available PPE for pesticide handlers. We currently have N-95 masks in stock, and these will be made available upon request to growers or ag business who need them for pesticide handling activities.

Growers or businesses that would like to obtain either the disposable-type masks or the N95 masks can contact Tom Morgan or Manuel Mendoza at the numbers included above.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Seeking Nominations for County Committee Members

Contact: Jeffrey Sledd, County Executive Director, FSA: 805.536.3177; Jeffrey.Sledd@usda.gov

The San Luis Obispo County Farm Service Agency (FSA) began accepting nominations for county committee members on June 15. Elections will occur in Local Administrative Areas 2(LAA-2) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office **by August 2, 2021**.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program, and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote, and hold office.

San Luis Obispo County's local administrative area 2 (LAA-2) is currently up for election, LAA-2 has the following boundaries:

Northern boundary - Monterey County line; Southern boundary - North side of HWY 41 West, east of US 101 from Atascadero to HWY 58; Western boundary - Pacific Coastline; Eastern boundary - Northwestern side of HWY 58 to HWY 229 to HWY 41 East to HWY 46 East to the Kings Co line.
Cities included: Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Miguel, Cambria, San Simeon, Templeton, and Cayucos

Producers who reside in any part of LAA-2 may be eligible to run and serve on the County Committee. To request a nomination form, visit the link below or call the office at 805-434-0396 x2.

For more information follow this link:
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/index

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Producers serving on FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Producers should contact the San Luis Obispo County FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 1, 2021. To contact the local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-locator or call 805-434-0396 ext. 2.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jeffrey.Sledd@usda.gov, or by phone at 805-536-3177.

USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General and Grasslands Signups:

The USDA has set a July 23, 2021 deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the CRP general signup program. In addition, USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) program will be accepting applications for the CRP Grasslands program from July 12 through August 20. This year, USDA updated both signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increase its conservation benefits, including reducing the impacts of climate change.

For additional information, visit the full USDA statement or their fact sheet about the CRP: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/California/news-releases/2021/usda-announces-dates-for-conservation-reserve-program-general-and-grasslands-signups-06152021_rel001

USDA Expands the CLEAR30 Pilot Program for Landowners and Agricultural Producers Currently Enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program:

Landowners and agricultural producers currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) now have a wider opportunity to enroll in a 30-year contract through the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative, called CLEAR30. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding CLEAR30 – a water-quality focused option available through CRP – to be nationwide now.

For additional information, visit the full details of the program at the following website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/California/news-releases/2021/usda-opens-signup-for-clear30-expands-pilot-to-be-nationwide-06152021_rel002

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Pilot Program in California to Alleviate Historic Drought Conditions:

Contact: USDA Natural Resources, Templeton Service Center: 805.434.0396

Earlier this month, the NRCS announced that California would be part of a four-state pilot program that will make funds available to agricultural producers for alleviating the immediate impacts of drought conditions. The program will be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and those interested will need to apply by July 12, 2021.

For additional information, please review the press release detailing the program here:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1789028#:~:text=DAVIS%2C%20Calif.%2C%20June%2010,this%20important%20program%20to%20help

Or you can visit the EQIP program website:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd1342638

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