



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Emergency loans for Santa Cruz County family farms and ranches impacted by the ongoing drought are now available, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced.

On Dec. 23, 2015, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack declared a drought-related disaster impacting 33 California counties, including Santa Cruz. Farms with losses dating back to Jan. 2, 2015 are eligible for assistance, up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Eligible losses include crops and physical assets, and the program is open to Santa Cruz County farmers who conduct family-sized farming operations. The loan application deadline is August 23, 2016.

Farmers and ranchers interested in applying for a loan can contact the local Farm Service Agency located at:

Monterey County Farm Service agency
744 La Guardia St. Bldg A
Salinas, Calif. 93905-3345
(831) 424-1036
(844) 206-7005 Fax

Additional information can be found at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency website, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on "State Offices" and select "California."