

COVID-19 UPDATE



FEDERAL FARM ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS WITH WILDFIRE DAMAGE

In October 2020, the federal government amended its major disaster declaration (FEMA-4558-DR) for California due to wildfires that occurred August 14 – September 26, 2020. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Loan Program has been made available to farmers in Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties who suffered physical and crop production losses as a direct result of the wildfire disasters. The maximum loan assistance is \$500,000. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2021.

If you are interested in applying, please contact your [local FSA office](#).

PROPOSITION 15 DEFEATED IN 2020 ELECTION

As of Nov. 11, Proposition 15 trailed 51.8% to 48.2%, a difference of 562,488 votes, according to the California Secretary of State's office. The Associated Press projected the measure's defeat late Nov. 10, judging that the remaining ballots were unlikely to alter the outcome. Nearly 1.5 million ballots, most of them mailed in, remained to be counted as of Nov. 10, according to the secretary of state.

Proposition 15 would have modified California's landmark 1978 property-tax measure, Proposition 13, by reassessing commercial and industrial property at current market value every three years. Residential property would continue to be reassessed only when sold or when improvements are made. Although Proposition 15 included an exemption for agricultural land, any fixtures or improvements on that land—such as barns, fruit and nut trees, milking parlors, irrigation systems, processing plants and the like—would have been subject to higher taxes.

The defeat of Prop 15 is a significant victory not only for our industry but for the entire California agricultural community, both present and future. If you have any questions regarding Prop 15, please do not hesitate to contact our office.