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| **June 2020**NL Masthead* [June 30 Last Day to Complete Enrollment for 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage Programs](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2504536/edit#link_1)
* [FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2504536/edit#link_2)
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**South Dakota FSA Newsletter** |
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| **South Dakota Farm Service Agency**200 4th St SWHuron, SD 57350Phone:  605-352-1160Fax:  855-243-6003 [www.fsa.usda.gov/sd](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/xx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) **Acting State Executive Director:**Jamie White **State Committee:**Mark Gross, *Chairman*Tiffani Robertson, *Member*Bill Simonson, *Member*Gwen Kitzan, *Member*Kelsey Ducheneaux, *Member* **Program Managers:**Owen Fagerhaug*Conservation/Safety Net*Theresa Hoadley*Program Delivery/Price Support*LaDonna Hupp*Farm Loan Program*  To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/sd | **June 30 Last Day to Complete Enrollment for 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage Programs**Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2020 must do so by June 30. Although program elections for the 2020 crop year remain the same as elections made for 2019, all producers need to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to sign a 2020 enrollment contract.To date, more than 1.4 million ARC and PLC contracts have been signed for the 2020 crop year. This represents 89 percent of expected enrollment. FSA will send reminder postcards to producers who, according to agency records, have not yet submitted signed contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year.Producers who do not complete enrollment by close of business local time on Tuesday, June 30 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop.ARC and PLC contracts can be mailed or emailed to producers for signature depending on producer preference. Signed contracts can be mailed or emailed back to FSA or, arrangements can be made in advance with FSA to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office – call ahead for local drop off and other options available for submitting signed contracts electronically.Producers are eligible to enroll on farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium- and short-grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. **More Information** For more information on ARC and PLC including web-based decision tools, visit [farmers.gov/arc-plc](http://www.farmers.gov/arc-plc?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).           Visit [offices.usda.gov](https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to find location and contact information for the nearest FSA county office. |

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| **FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started making payments through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) to agricultural producers who suffered eligible losses because of drought or excess moisture in 2018 and 2019. Signup for these causes of loss opened March 23, and producers who suffered losses from drought (in counties designated D3 or above), excess moisture, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires can still apply for assistance through WHIP+.To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.For losses due to drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3, or extreme drought, or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019. Producers who suffered losses should contact their FSA county office.In addition to the recently added eligible losses of drought and excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information on Service Centers can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), and more information on WHIP+ can be found at [farmers.gov/whip-plus](http://www.farmers.gov/whip-plus?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI)**Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location. This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI).Producers must still contact both their local FSA office and their insurance provider to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps, or provide program-specific information, including reporting uninsured crops to FSA. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.**Report Changes in the Intended use of a Crop: Grain to Hay – Haying to Grazing – Silage to Hay**Conditions may have changed since you planted and certified the intended use of your crop. Plans may have changed due to lack of precipitation, heat and high winds, lack of irrigation water or because of storm damages such as hail.If your plans have changed and you’re going to graze instead of hay your crop or cut for hay or silage instead of harvesting for grain, then you must report the change of intended use to your local FSA office. Failure to timely report your decision to change the use of crops can result in the loss of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) benefits. Producers can report the change in intended use of a crop up until the final acreage reporting deadline.When grass fails to meet your pasture needs, you may consider grazing hay fields rather than harvesting third or fourth cuttings.  Changing the use to grazing may require producers to meet with the FSA appraiser and establish representative samples for a fall appraisal. Crops with NAP coverage that will not be harvested must be inspected by an FSA Loss Adjuster in order to maintain NAP eligibility.  Destruction of the crop or allowing deterioration of the crop without an inspection can result in the loss of program eligibility.    Failure to timely report these changes can result in the loss of NAP benefits.  All producers considering a change of intended use, destruction of the crop prior to the end of the crop year, or those who may be unsure of their certification should contact their local FSA office.**Policy Updates for Acreage Reporting**The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently made several policy updates for acreage reporting for cover crops, revising intended use, late-filed provisions, grazing allotments as well as updated the definitions of “idle” and “fallow.”**Reporting Cover Crops:**FSA made changes to the types of cover crops. Cover crop types can be chosen from the following four categories:* **Cereals and other grasses** - Any cover crop that is classified as a grass plant or cereal grain, and would include, but not be limited to, the following cover crops: cereal rye, wheat, barley, oats, black oats, triticale, annual ryegrass, pearl millet, foxtail millet (also called German, Italian or Hungarian millet), sorghum sudan grass, sorghum and other millets and grasses.
* **Legumes** - Any cover crop that is classified as a legume, including, but not limited to, clovers, vetches, peas, sun hemp, cowpeas, lentils and other legumes.
* **Brassicas and other broadleaves** - Any cover crop that is classified as a non-legume broadleaf, including, but not limited to, Brassicas such as radishes, turnips, canola, rapeseed, oilseed rape, and mustards, as well as other broadleaf plants such as phacelia, flax, sunflower, buckwheat, and safflower.
* **Mixtures** - Mixes of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time, for example, oats and radishes.

If the cover crop is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated according to policy guidelines, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop and the acreage report must be revised to reflect the actual crop.**Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting Date:**New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 days to change the intended use. Producer share interest changes alone will not allow for revisions to intended use after the acreage reporting date. The revision must be performed by either the acreage reporting date or within 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee’s satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.**Acreage Reports:**In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.**Reporting Grazing Allotments:**FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments. Producers will use form “FSA-578” to report grazing allotments as animal unit months (AUMs) using the “Reporting Unit” field. The local FSA office will need the grazing period start and end date and the percent of public land.**Definitions of Terms**FSA defines “idle” as cropland or a balance of cropland within a Common Land Unit (CLU) (field/subfield) which is not planted or considered not planted and does not meet the definition of fallow or skip row. For example, the balance of a field that could not be planted due to moisture or a turn area that is not planted would be reported as idle.  Fallow is considered unplanted cropland acres which are part of a crop/fallow rotation where cultivated land that is normally planted is purposely kept out of production during a regular growing season. Resting the ground in this manner allows it to recover its fertility and conserve moisture for crop production in the next growing season.**Cover Crop Guidelines**Recently the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) worked together to develop consistent, simple and a flexible policy for cover crop practices.The termination and reporting guidelines were updated for cover crops.**Termination**:The cover crop termination guidelines provide the timeline for terminating cover crops, are based on zones and apply to non-irrigated cropland. To view the zones and additional guidelines visit [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and click “Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.”**Reporting:**The intended use of cover only will be used to report cover crops. This includes cropsthat were terminated by tillage and reported with an intended use code of green manure. An FSA policy change will allow cover crops to be hayed and grazed. Program eligibility for the cover crop that is being hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program.If the crop reported as cover only is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated properly, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop.Crops reported with an intended use of cover only will not count toward the total cropland on the farm. In these situations a subsequent crop will be reported to account for all cropland on the farm.Cover crops include grasses, legumes, and forbs, for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes. Cover crops are primarily used for erosion control, soil health Improvement, and water quality improvement. The cover crop may be terminated by natural causes, such as frost, or intentionally terminated through chemical application, crimping, rolling, tillage or cutting. A cover crop managed and terminated according to NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines is **not**considered a crop for crop insurance purposes.Cover crops can be planted: with no subsequent crop planted, before a subsequent crop, after prevented planting acreage, after a planted crop, or into a standing crop.**CRP Continuous Enrollment Period**The Farm Service Agency is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/crp_continuous_enrollment_period-fact_sheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**USDA Launches New Conservation Pilot Program for Prairie Pothole Producers to Plant Perennial Cover for Conservation Use**The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in Prairie Pothole states to receive payments for planting perennial cover for conservation use on their land for three to five years. The new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) pilot is available to producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The signup for this pilot started March 30, 2020 and ends August 21.Through SHIPP, producers have the option of three-, four- or five-year CRP contracts to establish perennial cover for conservation use on less productive cropland in exchange for payments. This pilot enables producers to plant perennial cover that, among other benefits, will improve soil health and water quality while having the option to harvest, hay and graze during certain times of the year. Up to 50,000 acres can be enrolled.Perennial cover, whether used in a single year rotation or over multiple years, can improve the productivity of soils and soil health on a farm for generations and increase the bottom line for the farmer. Soil health, or soil quality, by definition, is the capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. The SHIPP pilot is the latest option in a full suite of opportunities available to producers through CRP and other conservation programs offered by USDA. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to talk to their FSA county office soon about whether this pilot fits their operation or consider another longer-term option such as the CRP General signup that ends February 28 or CRP Continuous signup that is ongoing.For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or contact your local office. To find your local USDA Service Center office, visit [https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses**The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2020 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations**Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger. When natural disaster occurs, there is a process for requesting a USDA Secretarial disaster designation for a county. Agricultural producers can play a vital role in this process.If you have experienced a production loss as a result of a natural disaster you may submit a request to your local FSA county office for your county to be evaluated for a Secretarial disaster designation. Once a request is received, the county office will collect disaster data and create a Loss Assessment Report. The County Emergency Board will review the Loss Assessment Report and determine if a recommendation is sent forward to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the designation.For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres**USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).Contact your local FSA office for a list of final planting dates by crop.If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted.  Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted.  A measurement service fee will be charged.Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishables must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.**Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans**Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA’s farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.Key changes include:* The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from $300,000 to $400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from $ 1.429 million to $1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
* The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from $300,000 to $600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from $1.429 million to $1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
* Producers can now receive both a $50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a $50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined $50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
* Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
* Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

**About Farm Loans**Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.For more information on FSA farm loans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or contact your [local USDA service center](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).**USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property***Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over $373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to $50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), or contact your local FSA office.USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users). |