



# NEWSLETTER



**January 2014**

**Nebraska State FSA Office**

7131 A Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Ph: (402) 437-5581  
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Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**State Executive Director**  
Dan Steinkruger

**State Committee:**  
Bill Armburst  
Fred Christensen  
Susan Frazier, Chairperson  
Leo Hoehn  
Linda Kleinschmit

**Next State Committee Meeting:**  
TBD

**Website:**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ne](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ne)

## Nebraska State Quarterly Newsletter

### Farm Bill Progress and Implementation

Congress is close to the finish line on drafting and approval of the Farm Bill. Upon passage and with the signature of President Obama, USDA and the Farm Service Agency will begin implementing programs. The first programs we plan to implement are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Livestock Forage Program (LFP) to address livestock losses (due to disasters) and forage losses (due to drought) in 2012 and 2013. You can assist us by filing timely 2014 acreage reports, reporting farm leasing and ownership changes and keeping our offices up to date on other changes for our record maintenance.

### Microloan (ML) Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the ML program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning and the smallest of family farm operations. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are normally repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Direct Operating Loan rates. For more information contact your local FSA Office or view the Microloan Fact Sheet on the FSA website by clicking [here](#).

### Farm Loan Information Chart

A Farm Loan Information Chart Fact Sheet containing information on maximum loan amounts, loan terms, and use of proceeds is available. The fact sheet can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Additional details on available Farm Loan Programs can be obtained at local FSA offices and on FSA's website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **Dates to Remember**

**March 15, 2014** – Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Dates for Alfalfa, Mixed Forage, Spring Seeded Annual Crops (Barley, Oats), Grass, Spring Seeded Annual Crops (Vegetables), and Sorghum Forage

**March 31, 2014** – Deadline to Request 2013 Commodity Loans for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, and Sesame Seed

**May 31, 2014** – Deadline to Request 2013 Commodity Loans for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed

### **FSA Interest Rates**

Farm Operating: 1.875%  
Farm Ownership: 4.125%  
Farm Ownership-Down Payment: 1.500%  
Emergency – Actual Loss: 2.875%  
Microloans: 1.875%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) 7 year term: 2.250%  
FSFL 10 year term: 2.875%  
FSFL 12 year term: 3.000%  
Commodity Loans: 1.125%

## CRP Signup Status

Authorization for CRP signup expired on September 30, 2013 when the 2008 Farm Bill expired. Authorization for processing any new CRP offers and contracts has expired. FSA will continue to service any existing CRP contracts approved by September 30, 2013. This includes continuing to pay annual rental payments, cost share, and any incentive payments authorized. CRP signup will resume, if authorized, in a new Farm Bill.

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## Report Farm Operation Changes

Remember to keep FSA updated on any changes to your farming operation for 2014. All changes to a farming interest or to the land must be reported to FSA. Accurate records at FSA will remain an important component of eligibility for new Farm Bill programs.

Changes to a farming operation may result in a reconstitution, (i.e., combination or division) of the existing FSA farm structure. A “farm” is defined as a group of tracts that have the same owner and same operator. In cases where a farm division occurs, base acres may be divided by one of the following methods: 1) estate, 2) designation by landowner, 3) DCP cropland percentage (tract divisions only), or 4) default method.

The designation by landowner method is the division of base acres in a manner agreed to by the seller and purchaser of a farm. This method requires that the land was previously owned for a period of 3 years. Contact your local FSA office to further discuss your options for base acre divisions when a 2014 farm division will be completed.

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