July 2014

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Hours
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8:00 am – 4:30 pm

State Executive Director
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State FSA Committee
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Bill Armbrust

Next State FSA Committee Meeting
August 4-6, 2014

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Website
www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

From the State Executive Director

Dan Steinkruger
State Executive Director

It has been almost three years since we published a Nebraska FSA Newsletter. Printing and mailing costs are too high as we work to meet the challenges of reduced USDA budgets. We do publish critical information on our programs through email on "GovDelivery." (See page 6 on how to sign up.)

The 2014 Farm Bill has major changes in many programs and minor adjustments in others. We are sending you this letter to highlight the new Farm Bill FSA Programs. We also have critical dates and deadlines outlined. This Farm Bill is for you and your farm/ranch. If you have a question, call or email your local FSA Office. Our staff stands ready to provide you the best possible information and service.

2014 Farm Bill

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill. For Nebraska specific information visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ne or contact your local USDA FSA Office.

ARC/PLC Program Election

Producers will be making a one time irrevocable election, applicable for 2014-2018, to obtain either Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC). PLC protects against price declines while ARC provides a safety net from revenue declines (price and yield). ARC participation must be elected at either the "county" or "individual" level. PLC and ARC-County may be elected on a crop-by-crop basis. ARC-Individual must be elected for all commodities on a farm. If all producers on a farm fail to make a unanimous election for 2014, the farm forgoes any 2014 payments and PLC is automatically elected for 2015-2018. The election period has not yet been announced.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC) is similar to the previous Counter-cyclical Program, since payments are made when the "effective" price for the applicable base crop on the farm falls below the crop's "reference" price (previously referred to as "Target Price"), regardless of whether that crop was actually planted. The difference between the Reference Price and the Effective Price determines a crop's payment rate. A crop's "effective" price is the higher of the 12-month national average market price, or the loan rate. The Reference Prices under the 2014 Farm Bill are generally higher than the 2008 Farm Bill Target Prices.

In the case of ARC-County, crop specific guarantees and revenues are evaluated at the county level. Payments are earned when the actual county revenue for a crop falls below a guaranteed county revenue level. When a certain crop is determined to have a revenue loss, participating producers earn a payment if they have base acres on the farm for that crop, regardless of whether or not they planted that crop. Producers who participate in ARC-County are not required to report their actual production.

For ARC-Individual, a "whole-farm" guarantee and actual revenue is calculated, utilizing a producer's historical and actual yields for all crops on the farm. Payments are earned when the overall revenue for the "farm" (considering all crops on all farms in a state that were elected into ARC-Individual) falls below the farm's overall guaranteed revenue. A per-acre payment rate is determined, and then applied to a percentage of the total base acres on the participating farms to calculate a payment. Producers who participate in ARC-Individual will be required to report their production on an annual basis.

FSA is currently working with Cooperative Extension to plan a statewide series of producer meetings to provide additional information on these programs.

Base Reallocation and Yield Updates

Landowners will have a one time opportunity to retain their 2013 crop base, or choose to "reallocate" their farm's crop base, using the 2009-2012 planting history of the covered commodities on the farm. The resulting base acres apply for 2014 and future years. Total base acres cannot increase from 2013, but acres may be "reallocated" to other crops. If an initial and subsequent crop were planted in the same year, the owner can choose which crop will apply for purposes of determining the planting history.

Landowners will also have a one time opportunity to retain or update their 2013 counter-cyclical crop yields, using yield history from 2008-2012 for each covered commodity on the farm. This yield will be used to determine Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments. The recalculated CC yield will be 90% of the 2008-2012 average, excluding any years of "zero" planted acreage. Yield updates may be requested for one or more crops, regardless of program election. The timeframe to complete base reallocation and yield updates will be announced in the near future.

Producer Eligibility Requirements

In order to remain eligible for most FSA program benefits, certain eligibility requirements must be met. These include the following:

- Participants must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Conservation compliance will also be linked to eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidies in future years.
- Participants must have an average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of $900,000 or less to remain eligible for commodity and conservation programs. "Average AGI" is the average of the adjusted gross income (both farm and nonfarm) for the person or legal entity for the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year. (Example: For 2014 program eligibility, consider the average AGI from tax years 2012, 2011 and 2010. AGI requirements extend to individuals, entities, and members of entities.)
- ARC/PLC participants must meet the "actively engaged in farming" and "cash rent tenant" requirements, considering their contributions to the farming operation of land, capital, equipment, active personal labor and active personal management. In addition, participants must make contributions that are at risk, and that are commensurate with their claimed share.

Changes to Fruit and Vegetable Planting Rules

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced fruit and vegetable provisions that affect producers who intend to participate in certain programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Producers who participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs will be subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits (including nuts) and vegetables (FAV's) are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Farm and producer history provisions no longer apply.

These provisions apply to crops such as dry edible beans and potatoes, in addition to other traditional FAV's. Local FSA offices have a complete listing of FAV crops available. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas, or FAV's planted only as cover crops. Planting FAV's on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that do not participate in ARC or PLC in a particular year may plant unlimited FAV's for that year, but they will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Farms enrolled in ARC (county coverage) and PLC are subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when FAV's are planted on more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm. Farms enrolled in ARC (individual coverage) are subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when FAV's are planted on more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm.

FAV's that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region, as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Acreage Reporting Requirement Continues

Annual acreage reports continue to be an eligibility requirement for most FSA programs. They also provide an important record of cropping history and farming interest. In Nebraska, perennial forage and fall-seeded crops must be reported by November 15th of the preceding year. (Example: 2015 reports must be submitted by November 15, 2014.) All other crops have a July 15th deadline. For 2014 crops, the late-file fees have been waived through December 31, 2014. (Exception - prevented planting acres should be reported within 15 days of the final planting date.) Reports for failed crops should be submitted before disposition of the crop. Producers with Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage may have special requirements.

It's critical to provide an accurate report of crops, intended uses, producer shares (including lease agreements) and irrigation practices. This information determines eligibility for program benefits and, in some cases, cannot be later revised. FSA and crop insurance acreage reports should be consistent.

FSA Program Payment Limitations

The 2014 Farm Bill established a maximum dollar amount per year that may be earned by an individual or legal entity. Payment limitation is controlled both at the entity level, and at the member level through direct attribution. Direct attribution means that payments received by an individual either directly or indirectly (through membership in an entity), will be attributed to a single limitation. Spouses may qualify for separate limitations if all other criteria are met. The following limitations apply for programs administered by FSA:

Program(s)	Limitation per Person or Legal Entity, per Crop, Program or Fiscal year
Price Loss Coverage (PLC), Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)	$125,000
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments	$50,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	$125,000
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)	$125,000

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must be physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. The Farm Bill provided retroactive authority to cover grazing losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011. Producers are encouraged to complete the application process as soon as possible by contacting their local FSA office. The deadline to apply for LFP payment is January 30, 2015 for program years 2012, 2013, and 2014 losses. The deadline for 2015 and subsequent program years is January 30th following the end of the program year.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of qualifying drought equal to 1, 3, 4, or 5 monthly LFP payments. Payments are made using a 60 percent payment factor. The number of monthly LFP payments is based upon the U.S. Drought Monitor intensity ratings:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity rating for eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period equals one monthly LFP payment;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity rating for one week during the normal grazing period equals three monthly LFP payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity rating for four weeks or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity rating for one week during the normal grazing period equals four monthly LFP payments;
- D4 (exceptional drought) intensity rating for four weeks during the normal grazing period equals five monthly LFP payments.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. The Farm Bill provided retroactive authority to cover livestock losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office as soon as possible. The deadline for program years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 losses is January 30, 2015. The notice of loss deadline for 2015 and subsequent program years is the earlier of 30 days after death is apparent or January 30th. The application for payment deadline for 2015 and subsequent years is January 30th following the end of the program year. Notice of loss and application for payments should be filed at the local FSA office.

Applicants must provide adequate proof that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. Documentation must provide for the quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible event. If adequate verifiable proof of death documentation is not available, reliable records in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records will be accepted. Certification of livestock deaths by third parties along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory documentation are also accepted if verifiable or reliable proof of death records are not available.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Applicants who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment as soon as possible to their local FSA Office, but no later than August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year and subsequent year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1st following the end of the program year. The ELAP program year is October 1st to September 30th.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Updates

On June 4, 2014, Secretary Vilsack announced several changes to CRP in implementing the 2014 Farm Bill. Other changes could be forthcoming when the Environmental Impact Statement is completed.

Continuous CRP Signup Resumes

On June 9, 2014, continuous CRP signup resumed. Continuous signup had ended on September 30, 2013 with the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill. Under continuous signup authority, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producers meet certain eligibility requirements and are not subject to competitive bidding.

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months. (e.g. until after the current crop is harvested).

Possible CRP benefits to the participant include rental payments based on county average dryland cash rent, cost share payments of up to 50 percent of the average cost, practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for certain practices and an upfront signing incentive payment (SIP) of up to $150 per acre for certain practices.

Generally, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. Eligible land includes land that is planted or considered planted for four out of the previous six crop years from 2008 to 2013 and is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Expiring continuous CRP signup contracts are eligible for re-enrollment under a new contract.

CRP Contract Extensions

In lieu of a general CRP signup this year, USDA will allow producers with general CRP contracts expiring September 30, 2014 the option of a one year contract extension if the contract has been in effect for less than 15 years.

CRP Transition Incentive Program (CRP TIP)

CRP TIP assists with the transition of expiring CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized $33 million for fiscal years 2014 through 2018. Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis until the funds authorized for the program are exhausted.

Retired or retiring owner or operator means an owner or operator of land enrolled in a CRP contract who has ended active labor in farming operations as a producer of agricultural commodities or expects to do so within five years of the CRP contract modification. The retiring owner or operator must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long-term (at least five years). The land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract must be rented to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The retiring farmer must agree to permit the beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to make conservation and land improvements according to an approved conservation plan.

Beginning farmer or rancher means any person or entity who has not been a farmer or rancher for more than 10 years and materially and substantially participates in the operation of the farm or ranch involved in CRP contract modification. A veteran farmer or rancher is one who served in the Armed Forces and who has operated a farm or ranch for no more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group with regard to their individual qualities. Gender is not included.

Retired or retiring owners and operators participating in TIP may receive up to two additional annual rental payments after their CRP contract expires provided the beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is not a family member.

CRP Early Termination of Some Contracts

The 2014 Farm Bill requires USDA to offer a limited number of producers opportunities to opt out of certain CRP contracts during fiscal year 2015, if those contracts have been in effect for at least five years. The eligible CRP practices eligible for opt out is very limited. Eligible practices include:

Practice	Title
CP1	Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
CP2	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
CP3	Tree Planting
CP10	Vegetative Cover – Grass - Already Established
CP11	Vegetative Cover – Trees – Already Established

Land enrolled in the above practices under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or wellhead protection program are not eligible for opt out. Program details are still pending.

Farm Loan Funding is Available

Farm Loan Program funding is currently available for FSA Direct Operating Loans including Microloan and Youth Loans, Direct Farm Ownership loans including Direct Down Payment Farm Ownership and Participation (Joint Financing) Direct Farm Ownership Loans, Guaranteed Operating, Guaranteed Farm Ownership, Guaranteed Conservation and Land Contract Guarantee Program loans. In the past, FSA had a significant backlog of Direct Farm Ownership loans. All approved Direct Farm Ownership loans have recently been funded and additional funding is still available for interested loan applicants. FSA also targets loan program funding to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, and is also emphasizing providing loan assistance to veterans. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Increased Farm Loan Opportunities

The 2014 Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations. This includes greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. Changes that have already been implemented include:

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit loan eligibility for guaranteed operating loans.
- The definition of a beginning farmer has been modified using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Joint Financing Interest Rate has been modified to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. For July 2014, the interest rate was 2.5 percent with a maximum term of 40 years.
- The maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans was increased from $225,000 to $300,000. For July 2014, the interest rate was 1.5 percent with a 20 year term.
- The rural residency requirement for Youth Loans was eliminated, allowing urban youth to be eligible for Youth Loans.
- The percent of guarantee offered on Guaranteed Conservation Loans (CL) increased from 75 to 80 percent. A 90 percent Guaranteed CL is available for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward loan eligibility term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications will be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the FSA Farm Bill website at www.**fsa**.usda.gov/**farmbill** for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) Enhancements

The FSFL program provides low-interest financing to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store and handle commodities. Recent program enhancements include 22 new categories of eligible equipment for fruit and vegetable producers. Specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers now have access to needed capital for sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety related equipment. A new more flexible alternative is provided for determining storage needs for fruit and vegetable producers. Additionally, FSFL security requirements have been eased for loans in the amount of $100,000 and less. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Qualified facilities include grain bins, grain handling and drying equipment, hay storage sheds, cold storage facilities and handling equipment for fruits and vegetables. The maximum FSFL loan amount is $500,000 per loan.

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 cold storage coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to $35,000. The repayment term may vary and shall 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.

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on the county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2014 through August 1, 2014. For more information, contact your local FSA office. Nomination forms can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

2014 NAP Requirements and Deadlines

If you've purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2014, there are some important reminders in order to be eligible for crop loss. The acreage reporting deadline for spring seeded crops is July 15, 2014. In order to be eligible for a NAP payment, producers must file a timely and accurate report of acreage and shares for all crops that are covered by NAP. Any 2013 production must be reported when certifying acreage for 2014 before the July 15, 2014 deadline.

To be eligible for NAP assistance, you must notify the staff of your local FSA office of any crop loss or damage within 15 days of the natural disaster occurrence, the date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to the producer, the normal harvest date as established by FSA, or the final planting date, if the planting was prevented by a natural disaster.

If you are planning to destroy the crop prior to harvest, an inspection of the entire acreage must be completed before destruction. Acreage destroyed without inspection and consent will not be eligible for NAP assistance.

Once your crop is harvested, for actual production, producers are required to turn in verifiable and reliable production evidence in order to maintain an actual production history (APH). This deadline for 2014 crops is the final acreage reporting deadline for the following year.

Electronic Monthly Newsletters – GovDelivery

The new Farm Bill has provided a rare opportunity to issue this hardcopy newsletter. In 2012, FSA started to utilize an electronic email service called GovDelivery. FSA will continue to utilize GovDelivery to publicize important program information timely.

Through GovDelivery, subscribers receive bulletins and monthly newsletters related to FSA program information. To subscribe to GovDelivery, you can contact your local FSA office or you may subscribe by accessing the Nebraska FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/ne and completing the subscription process in the "Stay Connected" section on the right hand side of the screen. Farmers, ranchers, and owners who do not have the ability to receive newsletters and bulletins by email can pick up a copy at their local FSA office.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

MAL's and LDP's provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool, mohair and honey. MAL's provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Loan terms are up to nine months. The crop may be stored on the farm or in an approved warehouse. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. MAL's and LDP's for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through the final loan availability date for the commodity. Sugar commodity loans for the 2014 crop will be available to sugar processors beginning October 1, 2014.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Prior to the disposal of grain under loan through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal, written authorization from the local FSA office must be obtained. A loan violation occurs when written authorization is not received from the local FSA office.

National and county loan rates for 2014 crops are posted on the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

For more information, please visit your local FSA office or FSA's website www.fsa.usda.gov.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program Extension

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which protects dairy farmers against income loss through September 1, 2014, or until the new Margin Protection Program (MPP) for dairy producers is operational. MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below $16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through April 2014 marketings is zero. Future payment rates for the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before September 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available.

Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) Extension

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the extension of the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP). DIPP provides payments to dairy producers and manufacturers of dairy products when they are directed to remove raw milk or products from the market because of contamination.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify their local FSA Office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the local FSA Office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

Spousal Signature Authority

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the local FSA office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures, contact your local FSA office.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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Dates to Remember

July 15, 2014	Final acreage reporting date (2014 spring seeded crops and CRP)
August 1, 2014	2012 and 2013 ELAP notice of loss and application for payment deadline; Final date to request a farm reconstitution; Final date to submit the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Elections (FSA-669A) to the County Office or postmarked.
November 3, 2014	2014 ELAP notice of loss and application for payment deadline
November 17, 2014	Final acreage reporting date (2015 perennial forage and fall seeded crops)
December 1, 2014	Official ballot for FSA committee elections (FSA-669) must be returned to the County FSA Office or postmarked.
January 30, 2015	2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 LFP and LIP notice of loss and application for payment deadline
February 2, 2015	Final loan availability date for LDP or MAL for mohair, unshorn pelts (LDP only), and wool
March 31, 2015	Final loan availability date for LDP or MAL for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed
June 1, 2015	Final loan availability date for LDP or MAL for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed