



NEWSLETTER



March 2014

Nebraska State FSA Office

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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:

March 19-20 at Nebraska
State Office

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

Nebraska Farm Service Agency Updates

New Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 2014

The FSA is working diligently to implement the programs provided in the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, which will benefit the farmers and ranchers throughout Nebraska. New programs are in the bill along with changes to existing programs. A Farm Bill Fact Sheet has been developed to provide an overview of the programs being administered by FSA. To learn more about FSA programs review the Farm Bill Fact Sheet as either a webpage or an Adobe file by clicking [here](#) or visit the FSA Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) were reauthorized and made retroactive to cover eligible losses back to October 1, 2011 by the 2014 Farm Bill. LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. Producers will need to provide an acreage report of the grazing land if not already on file. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014. Additional details are under development and will be made available, as soon as possible. In the meantime, producers can review each programs respective fact sheet as a webpage or an Adobe file on the FSA website by clicking the corresponding link, [LIP Fact Sheet](#) and [LFP Fact Sheet](#).

2013 Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

Producers who participated in the ACRE program in 2013 must submit a report of production for covered commodities by July 15, 2014. Failure to submit production reports timely for covered commodities planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination, ineligibility for ACRE revenue payments, and a refund of all program benefits including direct payments. Contact your local FSA office to make an appointment and complete your production report before spring planting season.

Dates to Remember

March 17, 2014 - NAP application closing date for Perennial Forage, Spring Seeded Crops, Mixed Forages, and Grazing Policies

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

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

FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.25%
Microloan: 2.25%
Farm Ownership: 4.25%
Farm Ownership – Joint Financing: 2.5%
Farm Ownership – Down Payment: 1.5%
Emergency – Actual Loss: 3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 2.875%
Commodity Loan: 1.125%

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

Additionally, producers in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas can purchase both NAP and RMA coverage for 2014 annual forage crops. However, beginning in 2015, NAP coverage will not be available for annual forage crops in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of the date the loss became apparent.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of March 17, 2014: Perennial Forage, Spring Seeded Crops, Mixed Forages and Grazing Policies.

2009-2013 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Compliance Reviews

AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009-2013 are being conducted for producers who the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) indicates may have exceeded the AGI limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Notifications will be sent in the near future to participants selected for the newest round of reviews. If a participant does not respond, or if they are determined to have exceeded the AGI limitations, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the participant, as applicable. If you have any questions about the AGI review process, please contact the Nebraska State FSA Office at (402) 437-5581.

Report Farm Record Changes

As we prepare for the implementation of the new Farm Bill programs, it's important to notify FSA of any changes to your farming operation to ensure your records are accurate and ready for sign-up. Changes may include changes to producers with an interest on the farm, new land broken out, sales of land, new leases or changes to lease arrangements, formation of new entities or changes to entity members, etc. Please contact your local FSA office now to update this important information.

Microloan (ML) Program

The FSA developed the ML program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning or the smallest of family farm operations. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. For more information contact your local FSA Office or view the Microloan fact sheet as a webpage or an Adobe file on the FSA website by clicking [here](#).

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program

The FSFL program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility, permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Recent enhancements announced for the FSFL program that will modify the security requirements for FSFL loans \$100,000 and less, and also make it easier for farmers and ranchers to finance the storage and handling equipment needed for their operations. Changes can be viewed by reading the FSFL news release. Click [here](#) to view the News Release as a webpage. For more information contact your local FSA Office or view the FSFL fact sheet as a webpage or an Adobe file on the FSA webpage by clicking [here](#).

Guaranteed Operating Loan Program Eligibility

Guaranteed Operating Loan applicants are no longer limited to a maximum of 15 years of financing through FSA's Direct and Guaranteed Operating Loan Programs. Previous and current Guaranteed Operating Loan borrowers who were no longer eligible for further Guaranteed Operating Loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit may now be eligible again for additional FSA Guaranteed Operating Loans through their commercial lender.

Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loan Interest Rate Reduced

Changes were made to the interest rate charged on Direct Farm Ownership Participation (Joint Financing) Loans where FSA provides 50 percent or less on jointly financed purchases of real estate. For March 2014, the Direct Farm Ownership Participation (Joint Financing) Loan interest rate is 2.5 percent, while the maximum loan term is 40 years and maximum loan amount is \$300,000. Contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information about the FSA Direct Farm Ownership Participation (Joint Financing) Loan Program.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).