



NEWSLETTER



May 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 FSA Committee Meeting:

June 23 and 24, 2014

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

Nebraska State FSA Updates

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

In order to receive payments from USDA, you must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification, should be completed to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on HEL and WC provisions, contact your local County FSA Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program Sign-up Period for 2012 Crop Losses Begins

FSA announced that sign-up began May 5, 2014 for 2012 crop losses under the SURE program. The program, established by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides for one final period of eligibility for producers suffering crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011, for crops intended for 2012 harvest.

The possible Nebraska crops that could meet this requirement are rye, triticale, apiculture, or nursery crops. Coverage from Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for all economically significant crops is required.

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the deadline of August 29, 2014.

For more information on the 2012 SURE program, visit your local County FSA Office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

Dates to Remember

May 30, 2014 - MILC Program Start Month Selection Relief Period Ends; Soybean Referendum Request Deadline

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

July 15, 2014 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for all Spring Seeded 2014 Crops and CRP; Deadline for 2013 ACRE Production Reports; and Deadline to Report 2013 NAP Production Evidence

August 1, 2014 - 2012 and 2013 ELAP Sign-up Deadline; Deadline to Request a Farm Reconstitution for 2014

August 29, 2014 - 2012 SURE Sign-up Deadline

November 1, 2014 - 2014 ELAP Sign-up Deadline

January 30, 2015 - 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 LFP and LIP Sign-up Deadline

May FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.125%

Microloan: 2.125%

Farm Ownership: 4.000%

Farm Ownership - Joint

Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership - Down

Payment: 1.500%

Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 2.250%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 2.875%

Commodity Loan: 1.125%

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011. Contact your local County FSA Office for more information and/or view the respective program Fact Sheets as a webpage or as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the FSA website by clicking "Fact Sheet" by each program name below.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) [Fact Sheet](#)

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or eligible leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers have until January 30, 2015 to apply for 2011, 2012, 2013, and/or 2014 losses.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) [Fact Sheet](#)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses in 2011, 2012, 2013, and/or 2014 should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) [Fact Sheet](#)

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. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and/or 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-up

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after October 1, 2011, can sign up for TAP. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include

ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster.

To signup contact your local County FSA Office.

Report Planted, Prevented Planted and Failed Acres

Once planting is finished, be sure to visit your local FSA and submit a report of your 2014 acreage. Acreage reports are required to maintain eligibility for multiple program benefits. It's important to provide accurate information regarding crops, intended uses, producer shares and irrigation practice. In addition, this information should be consistent between FSA and your crop insurance provider. All spring-seeded crops have a reporting deadline of July 15, 2014.

If a weather related event has caused the inability to plant an intended crop or has caused a planted crop to fail, it is important to file these claims with both FSA and your crop insurance timely so that field visits may be completed as necessary. Prevented planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date for the crop. Failed acres must be reported before disposition of the crop. Prevented planted and failed acreage claims are subject to review and approval by the local County Committee.

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 as a webpage or an Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) 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>.

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 including Direct Down Payment Farm Ownership and Participation (Joint Financing) Direct Farm Ownership Loans; Guaranteed Operating, Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Conservation Loans; and also the Land Contract Guarantee Program. In the past, FSA had a significant backlog of Direct Farm Ownership loans; however, all approved Direct Farm Ownership loans have recently been funded and additional funding is still available for interested loan applicants.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for our loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Report Foreign Land Ownership

Foreign persons who acquire, transfer, or hold interests in agricultural land are required to report those transactions and holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. This includes entities formed under U.S. law in which a foreign person has a reportable direct or indirect interest.

The required information must be submitted on an FSA-153 form. Any foreign person who holds, acquires or transfers any interest in agricultural land, that does not meet these reporting requirements or who knowingly submits an incomplete or false report, will be subject to a civil penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed.

GovDelivery Customers are NOT Impacted by the Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden. Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

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).