

**Fact Sheet****Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program  
How to Participate**

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of crops and commodities affected by natural disaster.

This information sheet is intended to help you, a producer of a commercial crop or other agricultural commodity, establish and maintain your eligibility for NAP and maximize your assistance.

***Am I an eligible producer?***

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing the crop and is entitled to share in the crop or would have shared had the crop been produced.

Questions regarding your eligibility should be directed to your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

***What is an eligible crop?***

An eligible crop is a commercial crop or other agricultural commodity:

- 1) For which the catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance is not available; and
- 2) That is grown for food (including livestock feed) or fiber (except trees).

Eligible crops specifically include: aquaculture (including ornamental fish), floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas tree crops, turfgrass sod, seed crops, and industrial crops.

Questions regarding whether a crop or commodity is insurable in the county, the land is eligible for insurance coverage, or a crop is covered for a particular peril should be directed to a crop insurance agent.

Questions regarding whether a crop is grown for food or fiber or is otherwise an eligible crop should be directed to your FSA local office.

***Must I report acreage and production of eligible crops?***

Your report of acreage and production is voluntary. However, your failure to report acreage and production yearly or for each planting, if planting multiple times during the crop year, will result in reduced or zero financial assistance.

Your report of crop acreage shortly after planting (early in the risk period) is beneficial to you and FSA. It relieves you of the burden of last minute maneuvering to meet the reporting deadline and so avoid a determination of ineligibility. Early reporting also allows FSA to take your report in a less chaotic setting thus reducing the chance of error.

Your report of production allows your local FSA office to calculate your approved yield on the basis of your actual production history.

When you do not report acreage and production, or when less than 4 crop years of production reports are available, your approved yield may be calculated using substantially reduced yield data.

If you are an operator of an aquaculture or floriculture facility or an ornamental nursery, you must yearly update a record of your facility or nursery with your FSA local office. If you are a beekeeper (for production of honey); Christmas tree or turfgrass sod farmer; or maple sap, commercial seed, or forage producer; you have unique and specific reporting requirements and should contact your FSA local office.

Reporting deadlines vary across the United States, contact your local FSA office for acreage and production reporting deadlines.

***What acreage information must I provide?***

You must provide only the following crop acreage information:

- Name of the crop (lettuce, clover, etc.);
- Type and variety (head lettuce, red clover, etc.);
- Location and acreage of the crop (field, sub-field, etc.);
- Your share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop;
- Practice used in the growing of the crop (irrigated or non-irrigated);
- Date planting of the crop was completed; and
- Intended use of the commodity (fresh, processed, etc.)

***What production information must I provide?***

You must:

- 1) Identify all harvested production of the crop in which you have an interest during the crop year in the county, whether the produce is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged, or used differently than intended;
- 2) Retain and provide, when required, acceptable (verifiable or reliable) production records available for the crop;

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- 3) Summarize all production of the crop and account for all production of the crop, whether or not your records reflect the production; and
- 4) Provide your production information in a manner that can be easily understood by your FSA county committee.

Questions regarding acceptable (verifiable or reliable) production records should be directed to your FSA local office.

#### **How are my reports of acreage and production used?**

Your report of acreage is used to verify your crop's existence. Your report of acreage is not acceptable if evidence of the crop does not exist.

Your records of acreage and production are used to calculate your actual production history (APH) by dividing your total crop production by your crop acreage.

Your approved yield (used to determine your expected production for a crop year) is calculated by averaging your APH for a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 10 crop years (5 years for apples and peaches.)

#### **What must I do when my crop or commodity is affected by natural disaster or I am prevented from planting my intended crop acreage as a result of natural disaster?**

You must complete and sign form CCC-576, Part B, Notice of Loss, at your local FSA office within 15 calendar days of the:

- Occurrence of natural disaster; or
- Final planting date if you are prevented from planting because of natural disaster;
- Date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

Acreage reporting and final planting dates vary across the United States. Contact your FSA local office regarding your local dates.

#### **What is an eligible natural disaster?**

An eligible natural disaster is any of the following:

- Damaging weather, such as drought, excessive moisture, hurricane, etc.;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake, flood, etc.; or
- A condition related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, insect infestation, etc.

The natural disaster must occur before or during harvest and directly affect the eligible crop.

#### **What Happens Next?**

Following the occurrence of a natural disaster, your local FSA office will compile information regarding:

- 1) The geographic extent of the damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence;
- 2) The identity of crops or commodities affected by the natural disaster; and
- 3) The delineation of a NAP area.

#### **When and where must I apply to receive a NAP payment?**

You must, following release of crop acreage by FSA personnel, a CCC contract loss adjuster, or on completion of harvest, and prior to the first acreage reporting date in the subsequent crop year:

- 1) Complete and sign form CCC-576, Part E, "Application for Payment," at your FSA local office.
- 2) Provide evidence of production, whether the produce is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged, or used differently than intended, to your FSA local office.

#### **What is a NAP area?**

A NAP area includes land affected by natural disaster that:

- 1) Corresponds to the boundary of a specific natural disaster to the maximum extent possible; and
- 2) Is expanded, if necessary, by the county and State FSA committees in a manner that does not intentionally include or exclude producers or crops.

A NAP area in the United States is:

- A county or multiple contiguous counties, or
- Expanded beyond the geographic extent of the damaging weather, etc. to include at least 320,000 contiguous acres, or
- Expanded beyond the geographic extent of the damaging weather, etc. to include, at a minimum, acreage having crops being produced yearly in excess of \$80 million.

All NAP areas in the United States must include at least 5 different producers of eligible crops. To be eligible, a crop must suffer an overall loss greater than 35 percent from the disaster.

A NAP area outside the United States (U.S. Trust Territory) includes the aggregate acreage that has at least 10 or more producers of each eligible crop. To be eligible, a crop must suffer an overall loss greater than 35 percent from the disaster.

***What amount of production must be lost in a NAP area to allow payments to individual producers?***

The expected area production of the specific crop must be reduced by more than 35 percent as a result of natural disaster.

***What is expected area production?***

Expected area production is the amount of the crop that would be produced in a minimum defined area (a NAP area) absent a natural disaster.

Expected area production is compared against estimated or actual area production to determine whether greater than 35 percent loss of the crop occurred. Estimated or actual area production must take into account all of the crop acreage in the NAP area without regard to whether the acreage is impacted by natural disaster.

***What amount of my production must be lost to allow a payment to me?***

Your expected unit production of the crop must be reduced by more than 50 percent as a result of natural disaster for which the area is defined, or you must be prevented from planting more than 35 percent of the specific crop acreage intended to be planted as a result of natural disaster for which the area is defined.

***What is a unit?***

The NAP unit includes the specific crop acreage in the county in which you have a unique interest. A unique interest is either:

- 100 percent interest; or
- A shared interest with another producer.

***What amount of my loss is indemnified under NAP?***

That amount of your loss indemnified under NAP is the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of your expected production, which is determined on the basis of your approved yield and reported acreage.

***What information is used to calculate my assistance payment?***

Your assistance payment is calculated using:

- 1) Crop acreage;
- 2) Approved yield;
- 3) Net production;
- 5) 55 percent of an average market price for the specific commodity, established by your State FSA committee;
- 6) A payment factor reflecting the decreasing cost incurred in the production cycle for the crop that is harvested, unharvested, or prevented from being planted.

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