From the State Executive Director

Over the next few months County Offices will be visiting with producers and sending out information regarding GovDelivery and how subscribers can also receive time-sensitive local FSA text message alerts on their cell phones. This is another useful tool to make sure you are informed about upcoming deadlines. Contact your local County Office if you have more questions.

I had the opportunity last week to bring greetings from USDA to the attendees of the 2018 FFA Convention in Pueblo. USDA is committed to and recognizes the importance of school-based agricultural education and youth-serving organizations like FFA. I have a daughter that is currently involved in 4-H, and I know first-hand the skills and disciplines you learn though these agricultural programs. FSA also had a booth so we could visit one-on-one about Youth Loan opportunities through FSA and their future college and career goals after high school. It’s always exciting to talk with our next generation of leaders in society.

Summer has arrived, we hope you all get the much needed moisture and rain through the growing season.

Sincerely,

Clarice Navarro
State Executive Director
participate in FSA programs should contact the County Executive Director in the FSA Office in your area or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Alternatively, you may also contact Colorado FSA Civil Rights Coordinator Jenny Peterson at 720-544-2895 or jenny.peterson@co.usda.gov.

2018 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendars days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses
become apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

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**Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including list disaster event (includes native grass for grazing).

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap).

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**USDA Extends Application Deadline for Dairy Margin Protection Program to June 22**

The re-enrollment deadline for the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy has been extended until June 22, 2018.

The new and improved program protects participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below levels of protection selected by the applicant.

The re-enrollment deadline was previously extended through June 8, 2018. The deadline is being extended a second time to ensure that dairy producers are given every opportunity to make a calculated decision and enroll in the program if they choose.

This will be the last opportunity for producers to take advantage of key adjustments Congress made to provisions of the MPP program under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to strengthen its support of dairy producers. USDA encourages producers contemplating enrollment to use the online web resource at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool) to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation.

The next margin under MPP, for May 2018, will be published on June 28, 2018. Therefore, all coverage elections on form CCC-782 and the $100 administrative fee, unless exempt, must be submitted to the County FSA Office no later than June 22, 2018. No registers will be utilized, so producers are encouraged to have their enrollment for 2018 completed by COB June 22, 2018.

All dairy operations must make new coverage elections for 2018 during the re-enrollment period, even if the operation was enrolled during the previous 2018 signup. Coverage elections made for 2018 will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. MPP payments will be sequestered at a rate of 6.6 percent.

To learn more about the Margin Protection Program for dairy, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency county office at offices.usda.gov or visit us on the Web at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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**Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA**
Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs. Please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit: http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.

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**Keeping Track of Dates and Deadlines**

March 15 through July 15th: CRP Primary Nesting Season (PNS)

June 15: 2018 FSA County Committee Election Nomination Period Begins

June 15: Final Acreage Reporting Date for Onions

June 22: MPP-Dairy re-enrollment extension deadline

July 16: Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Fruit (except Apples, Grapes and Peaches), Vegetables, Christmas Trees, Spring-Seeded Crops and all other crops not required to be reported by previously announced deadlines. **Please note that this is the final date that FSA can accept late-filed 2017 reports for these crops.**

July 16 through September 30th: 2018 CRP 2nd Grazing Period (with prior written approval)

July 16 through September 30th: 2018 CRP Managed Harvesting Period (with prior written approval)

Now through **August 1, 2018**: 2018 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Signup Period.

August 1: 2018 FSA County Committee Election Nomination Period Deadline

August 1: Last day to request FY 2018 farm reconstitutions on ARC & PLC Farms

August 1: Last day to request farm transfers for FY 2018

Now through **August 17, 2018**: Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup Period and 1-year Extensions on contracts expiring September 30, 2018.

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**Farm Service Agency Selected Interest Rates for June 2018**

Commodity Loan – 3.250%

Farm Storage Facility Loans
3 year loan – 2.625%
5 year loan - 2.875%
7 year loan – 3.000%
10 year loan – 3.000%
12 year loan – 3.000%
15 year loan – 3.000%

Farm Loans
Operating Loan – 3.625%
Operating Microloan – 3.625%
Farm Ownership Loan – 4.000%
Farm Ownership Microloan – 4.000%
Emergency Loan (Actual Loss) – 3.750%
USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to $100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to $50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to $100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting your local FSA office.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved 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, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).