

July 2015



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July Louisiana State FSA Newsletter

Louisiana FSA State Office

3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

www.fsa.usda.gov/la

State Executive

Director:

Craig A. McCain

Next State Committee

Meeting:

To be determined

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serves as the customer receipt instead of a printed

or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Several Parishes are Eligible for Emergency Loans

Secretarial Declaration S3854

Farmers and ranchers in Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, East Feliciana, Franklin, Grant, Iberville, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River and West Baton Rouge Parishes in Louisiana are eligible for natural disaster assistance.

The following parishes are eligible as contiguous:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| • Allen | Concordia | Madison | Tensas |
| • Ascension | DeSoto | Richland | Vernon |
| • Assumption | East Baton Rouge | Sabine | Webster |
| • Bienville | Evangeline | St. Helena | West Feliciana |
| • Caldwell | Iberia | St. Landry | Winn |
| • Catahoula | LaSalle | St. Martin | |

The designation is due to losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain, flooding, high winds and hail that occurred from April 27 through June 26, 2015.

All parishes listed above were designated natural disaster areas on July 22, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible parishes have until March 22, 2016 to apply for loans to help cover part of their production losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Presidential Disaster Designation M4228

Farmers and ranchers in Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches and Red River Parishes in Louisiana are eligible for natural disaster assistance. Bienville, DeSoto, LaSalle, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon, Webster and Winn Parishes are eligible as contiguous. The designation is due to losses caused by severe storms and flooding beginning May 18, 2015 and ending June 20, 2015.

All parishes listed above were designated natural disaster areas on July 13, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible parishes have until March 14, 2016 to apply for loans to help cover part of their production and physical losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs may be available to assist farmers and ranchers in this area and are encouraged to contact their local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Agricultural Producers in Louisiana Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest loans available through the FSA direct farm ownership program. Applications must be approved by Sept. 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available.

Eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. The interest rate can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

For more information about farm loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <https://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).