

July 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [A Message from the State Executive Director](#)
- [Biannual Newsletter Delivered to Your Mailbox](#)
- [USDA Resumes Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment](#)
- [Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations](#)
- [Nominations for the 2018 County Committee Election Close Aug. 1](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [July FSA Interest Rates](#)

Nebraska State FSA Newsletter

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A Message from the State Executive Director

The remaining three weeks of July are a critical time for Nebraska Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices across the state. We are wrapping up acreage reporting (which has a deadline of July 16) with our producers, while simultaneously facing an Aug. 1 deadline for enrollment for 2018 in the Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage programs.

These two activities are part of the foundation for the main farm bill safety net programs that support our farmer customers during down market times. It's detail-oriented work, and we strive to do our best as we power through it. The next time you find yourself sitting across the counter or desk from a Nebraska FSA employee, please tell them "thanks" for what they do, especially during this busy time period.

As you'll see in the articles below, we also have a couple additional things keeping us busy.

Mark Wilke
Tim Divis

To find more program information and contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ne.

- If you are interested in the opportunity to enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), now is the time to explore it. Applications are being accepted through Aug. 17, but if you are interested, please don't wait until the last day to get in the door. There is a great deal to the process, so we need to see you sooner rather than later. Read more below.
- It's severe weather season, and if you have the misfortune of experiencing ag-related damages due to tornadoes, hail, wind, flooding or other conditions, please report those to your county office. We use these reports to accumulate damage information that could be used to gain a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

From time to time I share with you educational information I believe might be valuable to you in the operation of your farm or ranch. There are a series of workshops over the next couple of months, hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that might be of interest to you, including "Land Management for 2020 and Beyond," "So, You've Inherited a Farm, Now What?" and "Ag Estate Planning." You can find out locations and dates of these by visiting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Economics calendar at this [link](#) and typing the name of the event in the Search Events box.

That's all I've got for this month. Best wishes.

-- Nancy Johner

Biannual Newsletter Delivered to Your Mailbox

Twice a year the Nebraska Farm Service Agency publishes a newsletter highlighting deadlines and programs that farmers, ranchers and landowners will want to pay special attention to over the coming six months. The publication is called Nebraska FSA News, and it recently was delivered right to your U.S. Post Office mailbox. If you did not receive your copy and would like one, if you believe you received this publication in error, or if you have a mailing address change, your best resource is your your local FSA Office. To find your local office, go to <https://www.farmers.gov>.

You also can find the June edition of Nebraska FSA News online by clicking [here](#).

USDA Resumes Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment

One-Year Extension Available to Holders of Many Expiring Contracts Through Continuous Signup

As part of a 33-year effort to protect sensitive lands and improve water quality and wildlife habitat on private lands, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has resumed accepting applications for the voluntary [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP). Eligible farmers, ranchers, and private

landowners can sign up at their local [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#) office between June 4 and Aug. 17, 2018.

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the CRP continuous signup (excluding applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and CRP grasslands). This pause allowed USDA to review available acres and avoid exceeding the 24 million-acre CRP cap set by the 2014 Farm Bill. New limited practice availability and short sign up period helps ensure that landowners with the most sensitive acreage will enroll in the program and avoid unintended competition with new and beginning farmers seeking leases. CRP enrollment currently is about 22.7 million acres.

2018 Signup for CRP

For this year's signup, limited priority practices are available for continuous enrollment. They include grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices.](#)

FSA will use updated soil rental rates to make annual rental payments, reflecting current values. It will not offer incentive payments as part of the new signup.

USDA will not open a general signup this year, however, a one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants with expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter with more information.

CRP Grasslands

Additionally, FSA established new [ranking criteria](#) for [CRP Grasslands](#). To guarantee all CRP grasslands offers are treated equally, applicants who previously applied will be asked to reapply using the new ranking criteria. Producers with pending applications will receive a letter providing the options.

About CRP

In return for enrolling land in CRP, USDA, through FSA on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years. CRP pays producers who remove sensitive lands from production and plant certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat.

The new changes to CRP do not impact the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a related program offered by CCC and state partners.

Producers wanting to apply for the CRP continuous signup or CRP grasslands should contact their USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov>. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger. When natural disaster occurs, there is a process for requesting a

USDA Secretarial disaster designation for a county. Agricultural producers can play a vital role in this process.

If you have experienced a production loss as a result of a natural disaster you may submit a request to your local FSA county office for your county to be evaluated for a Secretarial disaster designation. Once a request is received, the county office will collect disaster data and create a Loss Assessment Report. The County Emergency Board will review the Loss Assessment Report and determine if a recommendation is sent forward to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the designation.

For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

Nominations for the 2018 County Committee Election Close Aug. 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs. Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. All county committee candidate nomination forms for the 2018 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2018.

To be eligible for nomination and to hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

For additional information on the FSA county committee elections, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member, available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Dates to Remember

July 16, 2018 – Deadline to report all spring-seeded crops and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage

July 16, 2018 – **NAP acreage reporting deadline for millet and spring-seeded mixed forage, oats, peas and sorghum forage

Aug. 1, 2018 – Enrollment period for ARC/PLC ends

Aug. 1, 2018 – Deadline to request farm transfers or reconstitutions for 2018

Aug. 1, 2018 – FSA County Committee candidate nomination forms must be turned in to local

service center office or postmarked by this date

Aug. 17, 2018 – Application deadline for Conservation Reserve Program sign-up 51

Oct. 1, 2018 – **NAP sales closing deadline for alfalfa, mixed forages (2019 coverage)

****Please note the above NAP calendar references may not be inclusive for all NAP-covered crops; NAP participants should contact their County FSA Office to confirm important program deadlines.**

July FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 3.875%

Microloan Operating: 3.875%

Farm Ownership: 4.125%

Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.50%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.50%

Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 year term: 2.625%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 year term: 2.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 3%

Commodity Loan: 3.250%

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).