

April 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## New Mexico FSA Newsletter

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### **New Mexico Farm Service Agency**

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Albuquerque, NM 87109

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/NM](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NM)

**State Executive Director:**  
Michael S. White

**Executive Officer:**  
Brenda Archuleta

**Farm Loan Chief:**  
Leann Gibbs

**District Directors:**  
Brandon Terrazas - District 1  
Oscar Rivera - District 2  
Andrew Flores - District 3

**State Committee:**  
Committee Chair, Alisa  
Ogden  
Vice Chair, John M. Romero

### **A Message from the State Executive Director**

FSA Direct and Guaranteed Loan Borrowers,

Please be sure to contact your local FSA Farm Loan Office or your Guaranteed Loan Lender BEFORE entering into ANY lease on real estate that is pledged as security for a loan. The proposed lease agreement(s) will need to be reviewed by FSA to ensure that your loan(s) will remain compliant with program regulations if the lease goes into effect.

The New Mexico Farm Service Agency is committed to your success! Please visit your local Service Center if you have questions or to learn more about how we may be of further assistance.

Thank you

- Michael S. White  
New Mexico Farm Service Agency  
State Executive Director

Member, Dustin K. Johnson  
Member, Matthew L. Lansford

To find contact information for  
your local office go to  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NM](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NM)

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## Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

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## USDA Helps Cotton Producers Maintain, Expand Domestic Market

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking action to assist cotton producers through a Cotton Ginning Cost Share (CGCS) program in order to expand and maintain the domestic marketing of cotton.

The sign-up period for the CGCS program runs from March 12, 2018, to May 31, 2018.

Under the program, which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), cotton producers may receive a cost share payment, which is based on a producer's 2016 cotton acres reported to FSA multiplied by 20 percent of the average ginning cost for each production region.

The CGCS payment rates for each region of the country are:

Region Rate/Acre	States	Cost of Ginning	CGCS Payment
Southeast	Alabama, Florida, Georgia		
	N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Virginia	\$116.05	\$23.21
Mid-South	Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana		
	Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee	\$151.97	\$30.39
Southwest	Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas	\$98.26	\$19.65
West	Arizona, California, New Mexico	\$240.10	\$48.02

CGCS payments are capped at \$40,000 per producer. To qualify for the program, cotton producers must meet conservation compliance provisions, be actively engaged in farming and have adjusted gross incomes not exceeding \$900,000. FSA will mail letters and pre-filled applications to all eligible cotton producers.

The program was established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

To learn more about the CGCS program, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/cgcs](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cgcs) or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit the USDA's new website: <https://www.farmers.gov/>.

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## Still Time to be Counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture

### ***NASS to follow-up with producers who have not yet responded***

Farmers and ranchers still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the first deadline has just passed, NASS will continue to accept Census information through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers and ranchers.

Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it even if not currently farming. NASS will continue to follow-up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. To avoid these additional contacts, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their Census either online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail as soon as possible. Responding online saves time by skipping sections that do not apply and automatically calculating totals. The online questionnaire is accessible on desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or assistance filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

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## Guaranteed Loan Program

the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your lender or local FSA farm loan office for more information on guaranteed loans.

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## USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

*Free basic coverage and discounted premiums available for new and underserved loan applicants*

Producers who apply for FSA farm loans will be offered the opportunity to enroll in new disaster loss protections created by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new coverage, available from the Noninsured Crop

Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), is available to FSA loan applicants who grow non-insurable crops, so this is especially important to fruit and vegetable producers and other specialty crop growers.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost, or higher coverage for a discounted premium.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered crops include “specialty” crops, for instance, vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

In addition to free basic coverage, beginning, underserved or limited income producers are eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for the higher levels of coverage that protect up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers also may work with FSA to protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

Growers need not apply for an FSA loan, nor be a beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmer, to be eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program assistance. To learn more, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans), or contact your local FSA office at <https://offices.usda.gov>.

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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).