

June 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Virginia FSA State Newsletter

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**State Farm Service Agency**

**Virginia FSA State Office**

**James M. Dunn  
Acting State Executive Director**

1606 Santa Rosa Rd  
Suite 138  
Richmond, VA 23229

### **Acting State Executive Director Message**

**James M. Dunn, Acting State Executive Director, encourages NASS Surveys.**

NASS conducts more than 400 surveys each year across the country. The more producers we have responding, the better and more accurate our data will be. We want to understand why farmers do or do not respond to our surveys, and we'll use this information to improve the survey experience. It's short – just three questions – and we appreciate your feedback. Responses will be collected through Sept. 1, 2017.

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Farmer\\_Feedback/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Farmer_Feedback/index.php)

804-287-1503  
855-621-5866 fax

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### State Office Staff

Pete Adamson, Chief  
Farm Loans

Brent L. Whitlock, Chief  
Farm Programs

Connie Washburn-Marsh,  
Chief Administration Officer

Diane Lenoir-Giles  
Public Relations/Outreach  
Specialist

#### Virginia FSA Internet

More Information about  
Virginia FSA programs,  
activities and news can be  
found on the VA FSA Internet  
at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/va>

To learn more about FSA  
programs you can also visit  
the National website at  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Suggested tweet: @usda\_nass wants to know: Why do (or don't!)  
you answer its surveys? How can NASS serve you better?  
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Farmer\\_Feedback/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Farmer_Feedback/index.php)

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## Enrollment Period for 2017 Safety Net Coverage Continues Through Aug. 1

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit their local FSA office to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## 2017 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.

July 17, 2017 is the deadline to report 2017 Cover Crop, Corn, Cotton, CRP, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans, Vegetables and Tobacco in all Virginia Counties.

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 calendar 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.

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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 excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2017 crops. A notice of loss must be filed within 15 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal 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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## **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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## **Changing Bank Account**

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

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## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification Must be Filed to Receive FSA Benefits

The 2014 Farm Bill requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in order to maintain eligibility for premium support on federal crop insurance.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This includes financial assistance from the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), livestock disaster assistance programs, Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program and other conservation programs implemented by NRCS.

If you have not submitted the AD-1026 form, please do so as soon as possible but before land manipulation. When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required conservation compliance provisions.

Form AD-1026 is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Please contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

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## Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful for borrowers who use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines>. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment

rejections within a three month period, the preauthorized debt agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact your local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

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## **Borrower Training**

Borrower training is available for all Farm Service Agency customers. This training is required for all direct loan applicants, unless the applicant has a waiver issued by the agency.

Borrower training includes instruction in production and financial management. The purpose is to help the applicant develop and improve skills that are necessary to successfully operate a farm and build equity in the operation. It aims to help the producer become financially successful. Borrower training is provided, for a fee, by agency approved vendors. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager for a list of approved vendors.

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## **Selected Special Interest Rates for June 2017**

90-Day Treasury Bill - 0.75%  
Farm Operating Loans — Direct - 2.875%  
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct - 3.875%  
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.5%  
Emergency Loans - 3.75%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years) - 1.500%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years) - 1.875%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.125%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years) - 2.375%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years) - 2.375%  
Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 2.125%

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## **Dates to Remembers**

July 4:  
Federal Holiday – Offices Closed

July 17:  
Deadline to report 2017 Cover Crop, Corn, Cotton, CRP, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans, Vegetables and Tobacco

Aug. 1:  
Deadline to submit 2017 ARC/PLC Contracts

Oct. 31:  
Deadline to submit 2017 Organic Certification Cost Share Program applications

Continuous:  
Submit AD-1026 for forest land to be cleared for agricultural use and new ground (hay and pasture) to be planted to a row crop or vegetable.

Continuous:

Timely report changes in your farming operation to the County Office in writing and update your CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

Continuous:

Need on farm grain, hay or cold storage, consider FSFL for your storage needs. Contact your local FSA Office for more information.

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For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Virginia FSA State Office, contact Diane Lenoir-Giles at [diane.lenoir-giles@va.usda.gov](mailto:diane.lenoir-giles@va.usda.gov) or call at 804-287-1537.

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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).

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