

August 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Washington State FSA Newsletter

Washington State Farm Service Agency

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www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

State Executive Director:
Vacant

State Committee:
Don Olmstead Jr., Chair

Last Chance to Run For FSA Committee

August 1, 2017 is the deadline to submit nominations for FSA County Committee elections. Why should you care? Because the committees provide local input on the administration of federal farm programs. Interest in the positions and the elections shows the agency at the national level that farmers and ranchers want to maintain that local input.

Committee 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. They are paid for their time tending to committee business.

Larry DeHaan, Member
Jesus Limon, Member
Sheryl Hagen-Zakarison,
Member

To find contact information for
your local office go to
www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

Hear from FSA committee members in Washington state about
their experiences by viewing a 3-minute [video](#).

Contact your county office for a map of LAAs open for this election
or see the [map online](#).

You may submit a nomination, including a self-nomination, at your
[county FSA office](#). For more information on FSA county committee
elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility
to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) Annual Election Delayed

The 2018 calendar year MPP-Dairy annual election signup period
has been delayed until **after** September 1, 2017.

In the meantime, dairy operations can use the available web-based
decision tool to compare options and decide what level will provide
the best coverage to manage your financial risk associated with low
milk prices or high feed costs that may occur during the 2018
calendar year.

The decision tool can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool. This
web-based tool allows you to quickly and easily combine unique
operation data and other key variables to calculate your coverage
needs based on price projections. You can review historical data or
estimate future coverage based on data projections. The tool also
calculates premium costs associated with selection of a higher level
of coverage. The secure site can be accessed via computer,
Smartphone, tablet or any other platform, 24 hours a day, seven
days a week.

Post-Harvest Presents Opportunity to Review Farm Loans

Farm Service Agency Farm Loan programs are based on supervised credit. FSA works one-on-one
with borrowers who participate in FSA Direct Loan programs. Experienced Farm Loan staff can help
you analyze your current financial situation on your farming operation.

If you have a loan with FSA, loan staff will review your financial and production information at the
end of each production season. If you believe that you may be unable to make your loan payment
to FSA, contact your loan officer or manager as soon as possible. Do not wait until you are already
past due before acknowledging a potential problem. Your Farm Loan officer will need to understand
your current situation as early as possible.

Your individual plan was originally based on the most current information available at the time. FSA
understands that farming is a risky business and there are some things that are not within your
control, such as weather, pricing, and machinery breakdowns. If your plan doesn't look like it is

matching up to the original projections, contact your loan officer. You will save yourself a lot of stress and worry if you are able to talk through your concerns.

If you have any questions concerning the repayment of your loans, please contact your local loan officer.

For more information on FSA Farm Loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments Available

With the start of 2017 crop harvest, keep in mind that FSA Marketing Assistance Loans can help producers meet cash flow needs without selling commodities when market prices are at harvest-time lows. In the current marketing environment for wheat, it may be a good time to contact your local FSA office to learn more about marketing loans and loan deficiency payments.

Wheat producers who are eligible for marketing loans are also eligible for loan deficiency payments (LDPs) in lieu of obtaining a loan, should the posted county price fall below the county loan rate. You can purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. Unlike LDPs, use of commodity certificates does not affect payment limitations. You can check the daily LDP rates online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan, loan deficiency payment, or certificate, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity, defined as having title, possession and control of the commodity. You are also responsible for loss of or damage to the commodity. All related application forms must be completed at the local FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest.

Marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments are also available for other commodities, such as corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans and other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed), dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, graded and non-graded wool, unshorn pelts, and honey.

Contact your [county FSA office](#) for more information about Marketing Assistance Loans and LDPs.

Payment Options for Grazed Grain Crops

Graze-out payments may be made to eligible producers who, although eligible to obtain a marketing assistance loan (MAL) or loan deficiency payment (LDP), elect to use acreage planted with barley, oats, triticale, or wheat for livestock grazing. To be eligible for a graze-out payment, you must agree to forgo any mechanical harvesting of the commodity on this acreage during the applicable crop year.

Land must be classified as cropland, be reported on FSA-578, and the intended use must be for "grazing." The crop must have been planted, certified, and would have been harvested if it went to a grain stage. Owners allowing subleases on the cropland are not eligible for graze-out payments.

The payment rate will be determined by the amount the applicable commodity loan rate exceeds the CCC-determined value of the commodity in the county where the farm is located. It is equal to the LDP rate. The graze-out payment yield is the yield in effect for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs with respect to that commodity on the farm. In the case

where no payment yield is established for the commodity on the farm, an appropriate yield will be established by the county committee.

FSA will accept applications for graze-out payments on the 2017 crop until March 31, 2018. You must retain beneficial interest in the crop through the date the crop is grazed. FSA cannot make graze-out payments on the crop if you have received a Federal Crop Insurance indemnity or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) indemnity on the crop. Contact your Farm Service Agency [county office](#) if you have questions or would like an appointment.

FSA Offers Improved Program to Limit Losses on Forages

Reduced forage quality is now considered a production loss for weather disaster assistance coverage under the new buy-up provisions of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

This safety net is important for cattlemen who produce non-insurable forage for feeding livestock. Previously, FSA only considered a decrease in overall forage tonnage produced when determining if the producer suffered a compensable loss after a qualifying weather event. Under FSA's new NAP buy-up provisions, a decrease in forage quality – such as protein content – is also considered and forage tests on the affected production is required.

To receive coverage for the 2018 crop year, producers must enroll their eligible forage in NAP by September 30, 2018. Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the NAP service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction in buy-up provisions.

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

Consider Protecting 2018 Crops Now

For crops not insurable through your crop insurance agent, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is an available tool to help mitigate financial risk. NAP covers non-insurable crops damaged, lost or prevented from being planted due to a natural weather related disaster conditions. The first NAP application deadline for 2018 crops is August 31, 2017. A list of crops and corresponding dates can be found at the end of this article.

NAP provides catastrophic level (CAT) of coverage for losses that exceed 50 percent of the expected yield at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop; as well as additional buy-up levels of coverage ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. You can request organic or direct market price options, if available and applicable, and a historical marketing percentage option for multiple marketed crops. Buy-up coverage will include a premium cost in addition to the administrative fee. Beginning, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers can request a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium cost reduction.

An online NAP premium calculator is available to help you determine what level of coverage will work best for you and what the associated costs will be. The NAP premium calculator can be accessed by clicking on the link: <http://fsa.usapas.com/NAP.aspx>

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to an approved weather-related disaster condition. Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event

or when the loss becomes evident. For hand-harvested crops, you must report the loss within 72 hours of when the damage or loss first becomes apparent. You may receive a NAP payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers a weather-related loss exceeding the level of coverage selected.

Eligibility requirements for NAP benefits include annual reporting of crop acreages; timely reporting damage, loss or prevented planting as it occurs; providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis; and obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

NAP coverage for the 2018 crop year should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the established NAP application for coverage closing date listed as follows:

August 31, 2017 – Aquaculture; beets (for stecklings); cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turf grass sod; turnips (for seed or fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

September 30, 2017 – Garlic; mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage and forage seed crops.

November 21, 2017 – Perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.

March 15, 2018 – Artichokes, beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camelina; carrots (for fresh or processing); mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forage (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP closing dates are also posted on the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov/wa. Contact your local [county FSA office](#) if you are interested in applying for NAP coverage, or if you have any questions regarding NAP availability or application closing dates.

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons Forbidden In Federal Facilities

USDA Service Centers and Farm Service Agency Offices are Off Limits for Firearms

This is an important reminder to all customers and patrons of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and USDA Service Centers statewide that **firearms are forbidden (even with a permit/license) in Federal Buildings**. A Federal Building by definition is any building owned, leased or rented by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.

The items that are prohibited in Federal facilities include any item prohibited by any applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal law and/or ordinance, as well as firearms, dangerous weapons, explosives, or other destructive devices (including their individual parts or components) designed, redesigned, used, intended for use, or readily converted to cause injury, death, or property damage. Possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities as outlined above is a crime punishable by fines and imprisonment.

For a complete list of items prohibited in Federal facilities, please view and/or download the document titled, **Items Prohibited from Federal Facilities: An Interagency Security Committee Standard:**

<http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/isc-items-prohibited-federal-facilities-feb-2013-508.pdf>. **The lists of prohibited items outlined in this document apply to all facility occupants, contractors, and the visiting public.**

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notification, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office—<http://offices.usda.gov>.

Important Dates and Deadlines

August 1, 2017 - Deadline for ARC/PLC enrollment.

August 1, 2017 – Deadline, to be effective for the 2017 year, to request farm reconstitutions or farm transfers to another administrative county due to changes in farm.

August 1, 2017 – Deadline to submit nominations for County Committee elections.

August 31, 2017 – Deadline to obtain 2018 crop year NAP coverage for aquaculture; beets (for stecklings); cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turf grass sod; turnips (for seed or fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

September 30, 2017 – Deadline to obtain 2018 crop year NAP coverage for garlic; mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage and forage seed crops.

September 30, 2017 – Final date to revise 2017 ARC/PLC contracts due to land sales, deaths, etc.

For previous issues of the FSA Washington newsletter and a list of annual program **reminders**, check the [newsletter page](#) on the FSA Washington website.

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