

September 2016



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## Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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

### A Message from Patty- Disaster Programs Available

In Wisconsin we are very lucky to experience four beautiful seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The change in seasons can bring weather events that we did not invite. These severe weather events can have a negative impact on our farms and communities, leaving people looking for help and answers.

FSA offers [disaster assistance and low-interest loan](#) programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs and loans include:

- **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 (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2016 crops.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados lightening, extreme heat, and extreme cold. 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.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disaster.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):** provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes.

- **Emergency Loan Program:** Available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought or flooding.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):** provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.
- **HayNet:** is an Internet-based Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze.  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet).

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on FSA form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/) or contact your local FSA Office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Dates to Remember

### September 30, 2016:

Deadline to **purchase 2017 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** coverage for crops including alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, clover, grasses, mixed forages, rhubarb, rye, triticale, vetch, and wheat.

### October 10, 2016:

**USDA Service Centers closed** in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

### November 15, 2016:

**Acreage reporting deadline** for 2017 crops including fall-seeded crops, perennial forage, fall mint, pasture, rangeland, forage, and cover crops.

### November 21, 2016:

**NAP application deadline for 2017 crops** including apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, currants, grapes, honey, hops, maple sap, pears, and strawberries.

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## Looking for Information about an FSA Farm Loan? Visit our Redesigned Website

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) website has undergone full redesign; this includes the [Farm Loan Programs Page](#).

The redesigned site allows the public to click links such as: [Farm Operating Loans](#), [Microloans](#), [Youth Loans](#), [Minority and Women Farmers](#), [Beginning Farmer Loans](#), [Emergency Loans](#) and, more importantly, the sites provide links to the application forms for each subject.

In addition to application forms, the site provides information regarding loan purposes, maximum loan limitations, repayment terms, interest rates and eligibility criteria. The revised Farm Loan Program website also offers a [Lender Tool Kit](#) for our partners in ag lending using the [Guarantee Loan Program](#). The tool kit provides the most frequently used forms for loan making and servicing and describes how lenders obtain the status of Standard Eligible Lender, Certified Lender, or Preferred Lender.

To access the Farm Loan Programs site visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

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## Fall Acreage Reporting Deadlines

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 for the 2017 Crop Year.

PLEASE NOTE: Your crop insurance agent and FSA will be working with the Acreage and Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This initiative is a result of the 2014 Farm Bill and standardizes data requirements for acreage reporting between FSA and Crop Insurance providers. At this time, you **MUST** sign all acreage reports (FSA-578's) at a local Farm Service Agency office to meet the FSA program requirements. You may also have to sign forms with your local Crop Insurance Agent. Please contact your Farm Service Agency office AND your Crop Insurance agent to ensure you have completed all required forms to maintain eligibility for all programs.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Wisconsin:

**September 30, 2016:** Value-loss and controlled environment crops (except nursery)

**November 15, 2016:** Perennial forage, fall mint, fall-seeded small grains, pasture, rangeland, and forage

**January 15, 2017:** Apples, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, currants, hops, huckleberries, pears, strawberries

**July 15, 2017:** All spring seeded crops; including dry edible beans, dark and light red kidney beans, forage seeding, and all CRP acreage

**August 15, 2017:** Processed snap beans, cabbage

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above 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 above 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 dates listed above 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:

<http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Upcoming Webinar: How to Partner and Connect With FSA

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is hosting a webinar on October 4th at 1:00 p.m. CST to invite agricultural organizations to help farmers and ranchers around the country start, expand and grow their operation. Learn ways to connect with FSA, sign up to become a partner and develop a relationship that benefits the agricultural community. Register today by clicking here. Or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), then Programs and Services→ Outreach and Education→ Webinars.

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## USDA Climate Hub Building Block: Conservation of Sensitive Lands

USDA Climate Hubs are working with producers, ranchers, pasture and forest landowners to effectively partner in ways to help reduce climate change. To aid in this partnership, USDA established the 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.

One such Building Block is the "Conservation of Sensitive Lands." The term "sensitive lands" denotes soils and landscapes that are valuable due to properties (e.g., high organic matter, wet hydrology) and/or function (e.g., wildlife habitat, filtration, and hydrologic storage). Typical examples of these soils are organic rich histosols, floodplains, or wetlands along riparian areas. Properties and functions of these soils are easily disrupted from agricultural or urban land use.

Sensitive lands that are used for agricultural production can be protected by changes in land use (long-term cover). This reduction in land use intensity can provide multiple environmental benefits, including substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation that occurs as carbon is sequestered or preserved in soils and vegetation. When land is removed from crop production, several activities—including tillage, nitrogen fertilization, and energy use—are substantially reduced or eliminated, generating additional GHG mitigation.

FSA and NRCS are committed to identifying these sensitive lands and encouraging landowners, farmers, and ranchers to voluntarily adopt conservation systems--using financial and technical assistance--to generate GHG benefits. To read more about Conservation of Sensitive Lands, click the following link:

[http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate\\_change/building\\_blocks/4\\_SensitiveLands.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/building_blocks/4_SensitiveLands.pdf)

For more information about the USDA Climate Hubs click here: <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>

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