

April 2016



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Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin State Farm Service Agency **A Message From the SED**

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State Committee:

Bill Averbeck
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State Executive Director:

Patty Edelburg

Division Chiefs:

Russ Raeder, Executive
Officer
Tom Brandt, Farm Loan
Chief

Please contact your local
FSA Office for questions
specific to your operation
or county.

Hello Wisconsin Subscribers:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Patty Edelburg, a dairy farmer in Portage County and your new State Executive Director for the Wisconsin Farm Service Agency. It is a pleasure to have joined the Farm Service Agency in this position. I consider myself fortunate to have been given this opportunity to contribute to an organization with such a fine reputation in the agriculture community. At the Farm Service Agency, we take pride in being considered the “Can-do Agency.”

This leadership position offers new and exciting challenges to me, all of which I am looking forward to. Prior to this position, I had the opportunity to sit on the Wisconsin State FSA Committee for the past 6 years. My time on the State Committee has allowed me some great insight into the workings of the agency. I have also been involved in a number of agricultural organizations and served in various leadership positions. Now, I look forward to this new position where my responsibilities will include the general leadership and guidance of our 55 local field offices. I am quite anxious to get started with these new opportunities.

I can see already that this is a great group of people I will be working with. I am looking forward to getting out and meeting FSA staff and customers alike while visiting offices in this great state.

Please stay safe and have a successful spring,
Patty Edelburg

Dates to Remember

NAP Application Deadline for 2016 Nursery Crops

May 1, 2016

Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

May 30, 2016

Last day to obtain a Marketing Assistance Loan on 2015 coarse grain crops

May 31, 2016

County Committee Election Nomination Period

June 15-August 1, 2016

Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

July 4, 2016

County Committee Election Open House at all FSA Offices

July 13, 2016

Acreage reporting deadline for spring-seeded crops

July 15, 2016

ARCPLC Enrollment deadline for 2016 Contracts

August 1, 2016

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USDA to Provide Agricultural Credit, Training, Expand Opportunities for Farmer Veterans and Beginning Farmers

USDA is partnering with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to conduct agricultural credit training sessions in the Midwest for military veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. States under consideration to host the workshops include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These workshops will provide individuals interested in farming as a career, including military veterans, with methods to improve business planning and financial skills, and improve understanding of the risk management tools that can help small farm operations.

Other partners include Niman Ranch a community network of more than 700 independent family farmers and ranchers, and the Farm Credit Council and the Farm Credit System, which provides loans, leases and financial services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses across the United States. The workshops will also include assistance with credit applications and introductions to local or regional food markets.

To learn more about veterans in agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/veterans. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about FSA's farm loan programs. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. More information also is available from the Farmer Veteran Coalition at www.farmvetco.org.

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CRP Tree Thinning Incentive Signup Starts May 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016

Beginning May 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016 the Farm Service Agency will be offering Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants an opportunity to sign-up for new Tree Thinning Incentive Payments (TTIP). The Tree Thinning Incentive was created as part of the 2014 Farm Bill. TTIP allocated \$10 million in funds to promote forest management, encourage proper thinning, and enhance wildlife habitat on the land.

TTIP is designed to provide a financial incentive for CRP participants who wish to actively manage their forest lands in a manner consistent with customary forestry practices. Eligible practices for this incentive include CP-3: Tree Planting, CP-3A: Hardwood Tree Planting, CP-4D: Permanent Wildlife Habitat, CP-11: Trees Already Established, and CP-22: Riparian Buffer, in Wisconsin.

Participants must be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and already have established tree plantings. Participants may receive incentive payments based on the type activity they agree upon in an updated Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). The tree thinning incentive is not a cost sharing program, but a nationally established rate per acre payment based on the activity completed. Participants may do multiple activities over the course of a CRP contract and receive incentives for each activity completed.

The application period for TTIP is May 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016. With a limited number of funds, it is important that farmers and ranchers interested in doing such activities such as tree thinning, prescribed burning, disking, mechanical woody plant control and chemical/mechanical herbaceous plant control contact their local FSA office during this application period.

Please visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/CRP for more details about CRP. Contact your local FSA County office to schedule an appointment or ask questions about this payment incentive. Visit <http://offices.usda.gov> to find your local FSA office.

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NASS To Collect 2016 Wisconsin Planted Acreage Numbers

From May 31 – June 10, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Wisconsin Field Office will conduct two major mid-year surveys, The June Agricultural Survey and the June Area survey to determine planted acreages for major crops in Wisconsin. If you are contacted by NASS, we encourage your participation and cooperation.

NASS gathers data for the June Agricultural Survey from farmers by either mail, phone or in person. For the June Area Survey, a NASS representative will use an aerial photograph to visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of land in the tract. Growers will be asked to provide crop acreage – including biotech crops – as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values and value of sales. By responding to the survey, you will help ensure that the information published by NASS represents all areas of the State and is as accurate as possible.

Your participation levels the playing field for farmers, giving you access to the same information as grain buyers, packers, and input suppliers, and helps provide the information used by other USDA programs. This information is used extensively by state, local, and national leaders to address agricultural related issues that may impact producers. Taking a few minutes to respond to a NASS survey helps ensure the accuracy and quality of the data so NASS reports can eliminate speculation about potential acreage and help producers make critical decisions about marketing their crops this year.

Any information you provide is kept confidential and protected by federal law. NASS publishes only aggregate-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. State level data for Wisconsin will be published on June 30, 2016. All reports will be available on the internet at www.nass.usda.gov. If you have any questions about how to complete a survey from the NASS Wisconsin Field Office, please call 1-800-789-9277.

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USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack established the first ever [USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs](#) in February 2014 at seven locations around the country to provide more information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on the increasing risks of fires, pests, floods, and droughts associated with a changing climate. For information on the Climate Hub in your Region, visit <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov> and Click on the region to learn more.

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Enrollment for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Underway

Enrollment in safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2016 contract year is open now. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2016.

Although the choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two 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 in Wisconsin include barley, canola, corn, flaxseed, grain sorghum, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to contact their local office at <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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2016 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.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

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. Find your office here: <http://offices.usda.gov>

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