

April 2017



Farm Service Agency

GovDelivery Electronic
News Service



NEWSLETTER

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Greetings from the Acting State Director](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Producers Must Report Failed Acres and Prevented Planting](#)
- [2017 Acreage Reporting Deadlines and Signature Requirements](#)
- [NASS Seeks Input from Growers about 2017 Planted Acreage, Grain Stocks, Livestock Inventory and Land Values](#)
- [Loan Servicing Options During Financial Stress](#)
- [Enrollment for 2017 Farm Safety Net Coverage, ARCPLC, Going on Now](#)
- [2015, 2016 and 2017 Average Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Reviews](#)
- [Youth Loans Available](#)

Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

8030 Excelsior Dr.
Suite 100
Madison, WI 53717

Phone: 608-662-4422
Fax: 855-758-0755

Acting State Executive Director:
Russell Raeder

State Committee:
Bill Averbeck
George Huber
Linda Ceylor
Jamie Derr
Mike Gallagher

Farm Loan Chief:
Tom Brandt

Farm Program Chief/Executive Officer:
Russ Raeder

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

Greetings from the Acting State Director

For many of us, technology has become a part of our everyday life. This is also true for farmers; GPS guides many new tractors, drones can scout fields, and apps are available to provide real-time precipitation information. It is amazing to see all the ways farmers are using technology to help them do their jobs more efficiently.

The Farm Service Agency is also offering a new technological service to help farmers be more efficient. Each local FSA office is now offering the ability to "opt-in" to text messaging. By completing the "opt-in" to receive text messages, you will be informed of important reminders or upcoming deadlines. Text messages will be sent on a limited basis of no more than 2 texts per month.

If you are interested in receiving text messages from your local office, the process is simple. Please contact your local office to find out how to enroll in this new service. To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

We all hope that you stay safe during the busy spring season.

Take Care,

Russ Raeder

Dates to Remember

May 1, 2017:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application deadline to purchase loss coverage for 2017 nursery crops

May 29, 2017:

USDA **Service Centers closed** in observance of Memorial Day

May 31, 2017:

Last day to obtain **Marketing Assistance Loans** on 2016 coarse grain crops

July 17, 2017:

Final date to report spring-seeded crops including CRP on FSA-578.

June 15-August 1, 2017:

County Committee Election nomination period for Local Administrative Area up for election. Individuals can nominate themselves or others.

Producers Must Report Failed Acres and Prevented Planting

Producers are reminded to use form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres and prevented planting in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and/or crop insurance, producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops, including grasses. To be approved as failed acreage, the acreage must have been reported as failed acreage **before** the disposition of the crop; Risk Management Agency (RMA) data may be used for failed acreage when reported after the disposition of the crop, if the failed acreage was reported timely to RMA and supports the failed acreage information reported on the FSA-578, Report of Acreage.

Additionally, producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and RMA.

The final planting date for crops varies by location and crop type. Please contact your local office for final planting date details.

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment to file a Notice of Loss. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

2017 Acreage Reporting Deadlines and Signature Requirements

In order to comply with Farm Service Agency (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:

July 17, 2017: All spring-seeded crops; including dry edible beans, dark and light red kidney beans, forage seeding, and all CRP acreage.

August 17, 2017: Processing 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 find your local FSA office at <http://offices.usda.gov>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Loan Servicing Options During Financial Stress

There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you. To find your local Farm Loan Manager visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NASS Seeks Input from Growers about 2017 Planted Acreage, Grain Stocks, Livestock Inventory and Land Values

During the first two weeks of June, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct two major mid-year surveys; the June Agricultural Survey and the June Area Survey. These surveys are one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys that NASS does each year. Farmers contacted by NASS will be asked questions about 2017 planted acreage, current grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, and values of land and sales.

The information collected from growers will provide the first clear sign of the prospective production and supply of major commodities in Wisconsin and the United States for the 2017 crop year.

NASS gathers the data for the June Agricultural Survey by mail, phone and online. For the June Area Survey, a NASS field interviewer will visit randomly selected segments of land and interview the operators of the land.

By taking a few minutes to participate, selected farmers can help ensure the accuracy and quality of this data so that NASS reports can eliminate speculation about potential acreage and help producers make critical decisions about marketing their crops this year. The data is also used by other USDA agencies in administering government programs.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by producers is kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state-level and national-level results, ensuring that no individual producer can be identified.

The results from the survey will be published in a series of USDA reports, including the Annual Acreage Report and Quarterly Grain Stocks Report, both released on June 30, 2017. All reports will be made available on the NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov.

Questions regarding the NASS survey may be directed to Greg Bussler, Wisconsin State Statistician, at 800-789-9277 or email at greg.bussler@nass.usda.gov.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Enrollment for 2017 Farm Safety Net Coverage, ARCPLC, Going on Now

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 begin visiting FSA county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. 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. **The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.**

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.

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.

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

2015, 2016 and 2017 Average Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Reviews

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification and compliance reviews for 2015, 2016 and 2017 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicated may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the average AGI limitation of \$900,000, receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the \$900,000 limitation. The Wisconsin State FSA Office has begun notifying producers selected for review. If you have any questions about the review process or determinations, please contact the Wisconsin FSA State Office at 608-662-4422. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office. Payment eligibility adverse determinations become administratively final 30 days from the date of the payment eligibility adverse determination letter and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Youth Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact your local county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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).



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)