

April 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

*GovDelivery*

## Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

### Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

8030 Excelsior Dr.  
Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53717

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

**State Executive Director:**  
Sandy Chalmers

**Farm Loan Chief:**  
Tom Brandt

**Farm Program Chief:**  
Greg Biba

**State Committee:**  
Lisa Condon, Chair  
Thomas Gillis  
David Heideman  
Anthony Kurtz  
Tom McClellan

[www.fsa.usda.gov/wi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wi)

### A Message from Sandy Chalmers

The old saying goes "April showers bring May flowers." When those showers come, you may be spending more time indoors in your shops getting equipment ready for the busy spring planting season. I want to remind you to visit another indoor location- your local FSA office. Keep in mind the following important programs and deadlines:

**ARCPLC-** The Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage enrollment for 2018 is going on now in local FSA offices, and we have enrolled about 60 percent of our producers. The deadline to enroll for 2018 is August 1. Enrollment must be completed every year. Contact your local office to set up an appointment; you can find your local office at [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).

**Spring Acreage Reporting-** To maintain eligibility for current or future USDA programs, producers are required to file a crop acreage report (FSA-578) on an annual basis with FSA. The deadline to report all spring-seeded crops as well as forage seeding, crops intended for cover, green manure, or left standing in Wisconsin is July 15. Contact your local FSA office to set up an appointment to report your acres once they are planted.

**Disaster Programs-** FSA offers a number of programs to assist producers when affected by weather-related events. Many of the programs require notification of livestock or crop loss within 30 days of the event or when loss is first apparent. Contact your local office if you are affected by a natural disaster to determine if you are eligible.

FSA Offices are now doing some background work to prepare for the Dairy Margin Protection Program sign up. We will have more information for you in the near future, so stay tuned!

Until next month,

Sandy Chalmers  
State Executive Director

## Dates to Remember

**May 1, 2018:**

[Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) coverage deadline for 2019 nursery crops

**May 28, 2018:**

USDA Service Centers closed in observance of Memorial Day

**May 31, 2018:**

Last day to obtain a [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) on 2017 coarse grain crops

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

## Producers Reminded to Perform Stored Grain Quality Checks

With spring and warmer temperatures on the way, FSA reminds producers to perform quality checks of stored grain that is currently under a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan.

Producers with marketing assistance loans are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan. The CCC is not responsible for any quality loss.

In addition, producers are reminded that county offices conduct spot-checks regularly to verify that the quality and quantity of the loan collateral is being maintained by the borrower.

Please contact your local FSA office if you have questions regarding quality concerns or checks of stored grain. To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

## Partner Spotlight: Sign up now for NRCS EQIP Program

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin is accepting applications for the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Soil Health Initiative](#) to maximize soil health benefits on farming operations. Applications are due to local [USDA Service Centers](#) **by May 18, 2018**.

Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource. Using soil health principles and systems that include no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, more and more farmers are actually increasing their soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity. As a result, farmers are sequestering more carbon, increasing water infiltration, improving wildlife and pollinator habitat—all while harvesting better profits and often better yields.

This initiative, administered through the EQIP, provides a systems approach for conservation that is essential for a healthy soil environment. Producers can build their soil's health through signing up for the initiative to implement the following practices: (1) crop rotations, (2) cover crops, (3) residue management no-till/strip till, (4) nutrient management, and/or (5) integrated pest management.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more about the technical and financial assistance NRCS provides, to start developing their own conservation plan and to apply for the initiative.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

## Environmental Review Required before Project Completion

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

---

## Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be a success. A part of ensuring this success is providing guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial lending institutions. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- proposed or significant changes in the farming operation;
- significant changes to family income or expenses;
- development of problem situations;
- losses or proposed significant changes in security

In addition, if a farm loan borrower cannot make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

## Weather the Storm- FEMA Mobile App

USDA offers programs to help producers recover from disasters; FEMA can help you prepare ahead of time.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently launched a free mobile app that will instruct the public on what to do before, during and after emergencies. The app is available for download for Apple, Android and Blackberry mobile devices.

Download the app to:

- Receive alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations
- Get safety reminders, read tips to survive natural disasters and customize your emergency checklist
- Locate open shelters and where to talk to FEMA in person (or on the phone)
- Upload and share your disaster photos to help first responders.

For more information about the FEMA app, visit [fema.gov/mobile-app](http://fema.gov/mobile-app). To download the FEMA app from the Apple Store visit <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fema/id474807486?mt=8>. To download the FEMA app on Google Play for Android visit: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android&hl=en>

## Loan Interest Rates

\*Interest rates are announced at the beginning of each month.

[Click here to find notification of current FSFL and commodity loan interest rates.](#)

[Click here to view current Farm Loan interest rates.](#)

### **Farm Loans- APRIL 2018**

Farm Operating- Direct: 3.500%

Farm Operating- Microloan: 3.500%

Farm Ownership- Direct: 4.000%

Farm Ownership- Microloan: 4.000%

Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership- Down Payment: 1.50%

Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss: 3.750%

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)- APRIL 2018**

3-year FSFL: 2.375%

5-year FSFL: 2.625%

7-year FSFL: 2.750%

10-year FSFL: 2.875%

12-year FSFL: 2.875%

### **9-Month Commodity Loans- APRIL 2018**

Marketing Assistance Loan: 3.000%

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

**CORRECTION:** In the March 2018 Wisconsin GovDelivery newsletter, the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application deadline for garlic was incorrectly stated as March 15, 2018. The correct NAP application deadline for garlic was September 30, 2017. If you have questions about this program, please contact 608-662-4422 x 133.

---

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).

---