Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.

The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman must sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from the minor's parent

Note, by signing a document with a minor, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.

When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.

FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents not approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.

Spouses cannot sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Likewise, a spouse cannot sign a document on behalf of the other in order to affirm the eligibility of oneself.

Any member of a general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts must consist of an indicator “by” or “for” the individual’s name, individual’s name and capacity, or individual’s name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

ARC/PLC CONTRACT SIGN UP DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2022!
USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signups for 2022

Agricultural producers and landowners can now sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a cornerstone conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris Administration effort to address climate change and achieve other natural resource benefits. The General CRP signup will run from Jan. 31 to March 11, and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4 to May 13.

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres into CRP signups in 2021, including 2.5 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 22.1 million acres enrolled, and FSA is aiming to reach the 25.5-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2022.

CRP Signups

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.

Meanwhile, Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

Alongside these programs, producers and landowners can enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up, which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).

Climate Benefits

Last year, FSA enacted a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP General and Continuous signups, to better target CRP on addressing climate change. This incentive aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CRP’s climate-smart practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Additionally, in order to better target the program toward climate outcomes, USDA invested $10 million last year in the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. This will enable the agency to further refine the program and practices to provide producers tools for increased climate resilience.

More Information on CRP

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program -- for General CRP before the March 11 deadline, and for Grassland CRP before the May 13 deadline. Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Due to the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.
Due to COVID-19 requirements, we currently have restricted in-person appointments. Visitors will only be allowed into the facility if they have an appointment. Please call 307-772-2314 ext. 2 to schedule an in-person appointment.

**Funding**

**Marketing Assistance Loans**
- Jan. 31: for prior year harvested wool, mohair, and LDP only for unshorn pelts
- March 31: for prior year harvested wheat, barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats
- May 31: for prior year harvested corn, soybeans and other oilseeds, rice, grain sorghum, and pulse crops

Applications for Farm Storage Facility Loans and FSA's farm loan programs are accepted year-round.

**Farm Loan Programs**
- Farm Operating Loans
- Farm Ownership Loans
- Microloans
- Youth Loans
- Beginning Farmer Loans

USDA also offers other funding opportunities to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners finance their business. Visit farmers.gov/fund for more information.

**Conservation**

**Conservation Reserve Program**
- 2022 General Signup: Jan. 31 to March 11
- Continuous Signup: Ongoing
- CRP Grasslands
- 2022 Signup Period: April 4 to May 13

**Safety Net/Disaster**

**Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs**
- 2022 Deadline: March 15

**Dairy Margin Coverage Program**
- 2022 Deadline: Feb. 18

**Livestock Indemnity Program**
- March 1: Final Deadline to Submit Application for Payment for 2021 losses

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program - Laramie County, WY Closing Deadlines:**
- April 1: Spring-planted crops
- December 1: Fall-planted crops and perennial forage

**Acreage Reporting**

Acreage reporting is an important part of determining your eligibility for key programs.
- July 15: perennial grass, alfalfa, soybeans, corn and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, all other crops
- November 15: wheat and other fall-planted small grains

2022 Important Dates

Laramie County
USDA Service Center
11221A US Hwy 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2314 ext. 2

Contact your local USDA Service Center for program availability. For more information, tools and to find your local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov

Looking for a loan or just experienced a disaster? Farmers.gov’s Farm Loan and Disaster Assistance Discovery Tools can help identify assistance you’re eligible for after completing a few simple steps.

Other Important Links:
- usda.gov
- nrcs.usda.gov
- fsa.usda.gov
- mba.usda.gov

USDA Offices Closed:
- Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb. 21 - Washington’s Birthday
- May 30 - Memorial Day
- June 20 - Juneteenth (Observed)
- July 4 - Independence Day
- Sept. 5 - Labor Day
- Oct. 10 - Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 26 - Christmas Holiday (Observed)
- Jan. 2 - New Year’s Day (Observed)
USDA Encourages You to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages you to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage before the applicable crop sales deadline. *Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop.* Spring-seeded crops NAP deadline is 04/01/2022 for Laramie County.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting the RMA website.

The NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Higher coverage levels are available for an additional charge per acre.

Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Sherri D. Harvey at 307-772-2314 extension 2 or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.

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-fee Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).