

July 2013



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Alabama FSA State Updates

Alabama FSA State Office

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July 15 is the Deadline to Certify Crops

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the July 15, 2013 deadline for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts, soybeans, and many other crops, including many fruits and vegetables.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of: 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported, or July 15, 2013, for NAP crops where the NAP policyholder has paid a fee for NAP coverage.

July 15, 2013, is the Final Date to Report 2012 Production Records under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with Farm Service Agency (FSA) to establish an approved Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) yield. If this is the first year you've participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up to date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable and should show crop disposition. It is recommended that producers submit 2012

production records as soon as possible after harvest. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date. July 15, 2013, is the final date to submit 2012 crop year production to FSA.

County Committee Election Nominations Deadline is August 1

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee Election are being accepted now, through August 1, 2013. Producers who are residents in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged, minority or women farmers or ranchers, as well as beginning farmers, may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, dated 04-15-2013, must be used to nominate a candidate. The form and details may be picked up at the FSA County Office or downloaded from the FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, click on "Newsroom," then "County Committee Elections." Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, as well as the person making the nomination, and returned to the FSA County Office by the close of business on August 1, 2013, or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2013.

Request Farm Reconstitutions by August 1

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2013 DCP Sign-Up Ends August 2

The sign-up period for DCP is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012, with the exception that those enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Microloans up to \$35,000 Available through FSA

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program

will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or who would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).