

July 1, 2014



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MONTANA FSA: July 2014 eNewsletter

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Producers reminded of important July 15th 2014 Crop Certification/Reporting Deadline

Montana agricultural producers who have not yet filed their 2014 acreage/crop certification reports with their local FSA office are reminded that the July 15th deadline is fast approaching. To complete your 2014 certification, please contact your local county FSA office right away!!

Restarting CRP Continuous Signup

FSA County Offices begin accepting new offers under Signup 46 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous, CREP, FWP and SAFE signup types on June 9, 2014. The deadline for Signup 46 offers expires September 30, 2014. Producers interested in offering land for enrollment in CRP should contact their local FSA Office.

CRP 1-Year Contract Extensions

Beginning June 9, 2014, certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2014, may extend all or part of the contract acreage for a 1-year period at the same payment rate. Contract extensions are only available for general signup contracts. The signup period for the 1-year extension ends August 8, 2014. Contracts ineligible to be extended for 1-year are those contracts that will exceed a total of 15 years. Therefore, contracts that were approved for contract lengths of 14 years and 1 month up to 15 years will NOT be eligible for the 1-year extension.

No General CRP Signup is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2014.

CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/Haying Requests

Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing Season: May 15 to July 15th

Summer/Fall Managed Haying begins July 16th and ends Sept. 30th. Managed Grazing begins July 16th and ends Sept. 13th. Producers are reminded to sign up at their local FSA office and complete a CRP-117 form for county office approval **BEFORE** conducting any managed haying and/or grazing activity.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits. Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary. For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact FSA.

New Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

The Agricultural Act of 2014 set in place a new Average Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000. Compliance is certified on form CCC-941 and is based upon an average of the three years immediately preceding the most recent complete tax year. For example, for individuals or entities certifying compliance for the 2014 year, eligibility is based on the average of the Adjusted Gross Income (or comparable measure, as established by CCC) for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 tax years. The new AGI limitation applies to the following programs administered by FSA or NRCS: program year 2011 and subsequent years LIP, ELAP, LFP, and TAP; 2014 and subsequent years NAP, 2014-2018 ARC, PLC, LDP, MLG, and AMA; 2014 and 2015 transition assistance for producers of upland cotton; and 2015 and subsequent years Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program, CSP, CRP, EQIP, Farmable Wetland Program, Grassroots Source Water Protection Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

2014 Farm Bill Webpage and Timeline

USDA recently awarded education funding for the creation of new online farm bill decision making tools. In addition to this forthcoming education, producers now have access to a preliminary website from FSA that gives them a chance to begin familiarizing themselves with the new programs and the type of information they will need to consider when deciding which program options work better for them. At this site, farmers and ranchers can view ARC and PLC projected payments, ARC guarantees, and PLC payment rate projections. These tables are available on the [FSA website](#).

In addition to the training funding, USDA released a **projected** timeline for 2014 Farm Bill implementation:

- Mid-Summer 2014 - Producers receive letters notifying them of current bases and yields and 2009 to 2012 planting history.
 - Late Summer 2014 - ARC and PLC online tools become available. Owners have opportunity to update yields and reallocate bases for ARC/PLC purposes.
 - Winter 2014/2015 - ARC/PLC one-time selections occur.
 - Early 2015 - ARC/PLC sign-up for 2014 and 2015 starts.
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Important FSA Dates and Upcoming Deadlines:

- **April 15:** Signup Began for Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honeybees (ELAP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- **May 15-July 15:** Primary Nesting and Brood Rearing Season
- **June 15:** 2014 FSA County Committee Election Nomination Period Began
- **July 4:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day, a Federal Holiday
- **July 15:** 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, All Other Spring Seeded Crops and Any Crops Not Previously Reported.
- **July 15:** 2013 Crop Year Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Reporting Deadline & 2013 Crop Year NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- **July 15:** 2013 Crop Year Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Production Report Deadline
- **July 16:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/ Haying Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)
- **Aug. 1:** 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honeybees (ELAP) Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Aug. 1:** Last Day to File 2014 County Committee Election Nomination Form (FSA-669A) at FSA office
- **Aug. 8:** Deadline to Signup Period for the 1-year CRP Extension
- **Sept. 30:** 2015 Crop Year NAP Sales Closing Date for Fall Seeded Annual Crops and Perennial Forage Crops Intended for Hay and Grazing.
- **Sept. 30:** 2014 CRP Continuous Signup Deadline
- **Nov. 1:** 2014 ELAP Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline

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