



NEWSLETTER



**November 2014
Volume 10, Issue 1**

**South Carolina
State FSA Office**

**Harry L. Ott, Jr, State
Executive Director**

Address

1927 Thurmond Mall,
Suite 100
Columbia, SC, 29201

(803) 806-3820 phone
(855) 563-9305 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/sc

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee

Robert B. Battle, Chair
English W. Dixon
Mary F. Koon
Don C. Sharp
Thomas J. Trantham

Staff:

Riley Odum, Chief,
Compliance, Disaster, and
RMA

Amy Turner, Chief,
Production Adjustment, Price
Support, and Conservation

Frank Sligh, Chief
Farm Loan Programs

Toni Turner,
Administrative Officer

District Directors:

W. Jack Nettles
Kenneth D. McCaskill

Important Reminders:

****Producers Alert****

Please provide an email
address to your County Office
for future Program Updates.

Attention

Due to budget constraints,
this newsletter is mailed to
one recipient per
address. Please share with
others concerned in your
household.

November 2014 Newsletter

Final Crop Reporting Dates:

Crops	Final Crop Reporting and Disposition Dates
Apiculture, PRF (Perennial Rangeland Forage)	November 15, 2014
Clams	November 30, 2014

Importance of Accurate and Timely Acreage Reports

Producers must file an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage in order to prevent loss of benefits for programs. A report of acreage must be filed for the farm by the applicable final reporting date. To be considered timely filed, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- Failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

Measurement service is available to owners, operators, or other tenants. Contact your local FSA Office for rates and additional information.

2014 NAP Coverage

The NAP application closing date deadline to apply for many 2014 NAP crops is soon approaching.

For alfalfa, apples, blueberries, caneberries, figs, grapes, **all perennial grasses for hay or grazing**, honey, kiwifruit, lespedeza, nectarines, peaches, pears, pecans, plums, and figs, the deadline date is **November 20, 2014**.

For artichokes, asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, **all** greens, **all** herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, green onions, **all** peas, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, and turnips, the deadline date is **December 15, 2014**.

Producers who already have coverage on 2014 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop(s) for 2015, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop(s).

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop share must file a new application with signature and pay the applicable service fee.

NAP coverage for 2014 cost \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

Producers with NAP coverage must complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- timely filed acreage report
- maintain production records and report production to the county office for APH purposes
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Farm Bill Regional Meetings To Be Held

SC FSA in cooperation with Clemson Cooperative Extension and SC State University 1890 Program are hosting 6 regional meetings to help landowners & producers decide how to enroll in the 2014 Farm Bill programs – **ARC & PLC**. Speakers at each meeting will include Representatives from the SC Farm Service Agency State office and Clemson University. The purpose of the meetings is to explain the steps needed to:

1. **Update historical base and yields by farm number,**
2. **Elect the program for each farm number,** which will remain in effect for the 2014-2018 crop years,
 - 1) PLC or ARC County on a covered commodity-by-commodity basis; or
 - 2) ARC Individual for all covered commodities on the farm.
3. **Sign contracts to participate in ARC/PLC** for 2014 and 2015 crop years.

Please call ahead to reserve a spot for the meeting you plan to attend as space is limited at some locations.

November 10: Newberry, SC

Location: Helena Community Center
902 Giff Street, Newberry, SC

Contact: Jay Crouch, alfredc@clemson.edu
803-276-1091

Registration: 9:30 AM

Program: 10:00 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

November 10: Anderson, SC

Location: Anderson Co. Clemson Extension Office
313 South Towers Street, Anderson, SC

Contact: Chris Talley, Talley2@clemson.edu
864-226-1581

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Program: 7:00 PM

November 13: Marion, SC

Location: Woodhaven at Jimmy B's
1963 US 76, Marion, SC

Contact: William Hardee, hardee@clemson.edu
843-365-6715

Registration: 9:30 AM

Program: 10:00 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

November 13: Florence, SC

Location: Pee Dee REC
2200 Pocket Road, Florence, SC

Contact: David Dewitt, dewitt4@clemson.edu
803-773-5561

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Program: 7:00 PM

County Committee Elections

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Timetable

Nov. 3, 2014 – Ballots are mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 1, 2014 – Deadline to return completed ballots to the FSA County Office.

Jan. 1, 2015 – Newly elected county committee members take office.

For more information on the election, who can vote, who can hold office, or other general COC election information, please contact your local FSA County Office or you can visit us at the following website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sc>. You can also visit the FSA elections website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

2014 MAL and LDP Requests

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for eligible 2014 commodities.

MALs and LDPs for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through a specific commodity's final loan availability date. Sugar commodity loans for the 2014 crop will be available to sugar processors beginning Oct. 1, 2014.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool, mohair and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

National and county loans rates for 2014 crops are posted on the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

For more information, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website www.fsa.usda.gov.

NOVEMBER INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	2.750%
Farm Operating – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership	4.125%
Farm Ownership – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and wish to file a program complaint must contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) must contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.