

June 2014



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WA State FSA Updates

WA State FSA Office

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State Executive Director:
Judy Olson

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Next State Committee Meeting: August 12 at 1:00 pm

AGI Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill changed adjusted gross income requirements (AGI) to a single limitation of \$900,000 total AGI. This limitation applies to persons, legal entities and members of entities receiving payments directly or indirectly. The form to self-certify AGI has also been updated, and can be found [here](#).

Payment limitations provisions have also been updated to reflect the 2014 Farm Bill. For a chart of individual program payment limits, click [here](#).

Deadline to Submit Production for NAP Covered Crops

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to the county office written or verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form.

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business on **Tuesday July 15, 2014**. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

Power of Attorney and Farm Structure Updates

Farmers and ranchers should contact your [county office](#) to determine if your [Power of Attorney](#) forms on file include a checkmark in the "current and future programs" box for the POA to remain current through the 2014 Farm Bill. If the box is not checked, the POA will not be valid for the new programs.

Additionally, you have until **August 1, 2014** to finalize your farm structure. Future 2014 Farm Bill programs will look at the 2014 farm structure for eligibility and other requirements, so any changes or updates must be made before the August deadline to be valid. Even though the new ARC/PLC signup will not occur until this winter (see below), changes to your farm's make up, such as adding or dropping land, must be reported to FSA by August 1 to be effective for 2014 and the ARC and PLC decisions you will make later this year.

Drought Affects Majority of State

A Secretarial Disaster Declaration has been issued due to drought in Benton, Chelan, Franklin, Lincoln and Walla Walla counties. This triggers the availability of FSA emergency loans. The loans are low interest, currently 3.125% percent, with payment terms of up to 40 years.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the designation to apply for loans to help cover part of your actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the Emergency Loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Counties adjacent to the designated counties are considered contiguous. Producers in the following counties are also eligible for Emergency Loans: Adams, Benton, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman and Yakima counties.

Severe drought conditions in Benton, Chelan, Franklin, Lincoln and Walla Walla counties for 8 consecutive weeks during their established livestock grazing period makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) available for producers in those counties. The LFP provides financial assistance to eligible producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. More information can be found [here](#).

FSA has additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the [Emergency Conservation Program](#), the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#), the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#), and the [Tree Assistance Program](#). Interested farmers may contact your [county office](#) for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available [online](#).

Farm Storage Facility Loans Available

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and the

current rates can be found [here](#).

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and a final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Renewable biomass;
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities; and
- Honey

For more information, contact your [county office](#).

Upcoming County Office Staffing Schedule

FSA asks that appointments to conduct business in the county office are scheduled around the week of June 10. All program technicians statewide will be attending a much-needed training to prepare for continued Farm Bill roll-out. The training will be June 10-12, and county offices will be very short-staffed during this time.

Acreage Reporting Reminder

Farmers and ranchers are reminded that filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses can prevent loss of benefits from FSA programs.

Producers of spring seeded crops should begin to prepare now to provide your certifications. Orchardists and growers of fall seeded crops should have already provided acreage certifications to your local FSA office. Any additional plantings or replantings of those fall crops will require an updated acreage report. FSA does not accept reports of acreage prior to the crop being planted.

Producers who suffer losses or who are prevented from planting a crop must also document such losses timely. Each notice of loss must include a report of acreage. To receive FSA credit for failed crops, a notice of loss must be filed before disposition of the failed crop. Acreages which cannot be planted timely must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final plant date for the crop being attempted.

To be considered timely filed and to prevent incurring unnecessary fees, all crops and land uses must be reported by the earlier of: the onset of harvesting or grazing of the crop, or July 15. Producers with only CRP acreage to report must do so before July 15.

Forage and grazing producers should make note of this requirement as it is a major change. Acreage reports should be provided before the first cutting of forage if it will occur prior to July 15. Grazing producers who will be turning out prior to July 15, should report those acres prior to grazing commencing.

Even if the reporting date is missed, FSA encourages producers to work with your local county office. FSA has provisions which allow producers to file late and maintain program eligibility. Click [here](#) for the local office contact information to make an acreage reporting appointment.

2012 SURE Sign-up Announced

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) has been authorized for crops intended for 2012 harvest and for which losses occurred due to an eligible weather event on or before September 30, 2011. The signup is open until August 29, 2014.

More information can be found [here](#), and producers are also encouraged to notify your [county office](#) to apply for 2012 SURE.

ARC and PLC Updates and Projected Timeline

The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs are new programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. FSA is still in the process of writing policy and procedure for the programs and is working towards having the first sign-up late this year. As information is available, we will work to get information out to you, primarily through GovDelivery bulletins and newsletters.

Below is the current timeline, which is subject to change.

- This summer all farmers and ranchers with base acres will receive a letter from FSA notifying you of certain provisions affecting base acres and yields.
- In the fall, farm owners will receive a one-time opportunity to reallocate your base acres for the life of this Farm Bill (2018). The reallocation would be based on 2009 through 2012 plantings. At this time, owners will also be able to update yields for PLC, based on 90 percent of the farm's 2008 through 2012 average yield per planted acre.
- FSA is planning for a late-2014 or early-2015 signup for ARC and PLC. This is a one-time choice for the life of the Farm Bill. Failure to make a decision during this time will result in a default designation of PLC, and it will eliminate any 2014 payment.

For more information, contact your [local county office](#), and you can also view the ARC/PLC notice with the latest details referenced above [here](#).

2013 ACRE Production Reporting Requirement

Producers who participated in the 2013 ACRE program are reminded that as a condition of eligibility for payment, either the operator, owner, or producer with a share of the crop must submit production reports. Production reports are needed for all 2013 ACRE program commodities for which an acreage report greater than zero was submitted. The deadline for submitting production reports is July 15, 2014.

Production reports are submitted on form [FSA-658](#) by commodity and are reported by farm and by tract to calculate the farm average yield. You may certify your production information so actual production sheets are not required. Remember, all production certifications are subject to spot check for a three-year period.

Failure to timely complete production reports ([FSA-658](#)) will result in a request for refund of all Direct and ACRE program payments issued for the farm's 2013 ACRE Program participation. Contact the local [county office](#) for needed forms and more information.

Funding Awarded to Universities and Cooperative Extension to Prepare Farmers for 2014 Farm Bill Programs

USDA has awarded funding to the University of Illinois, University of Missouri, University of Texas AM and other universities and Cooperative Extension to develop educational tools to help producers make decisions on 2014 Farm Bill programs.

While many of these programs are not yet online, you can visit [here](#) to see projected payments and guarantees for ARC and PLC.

The projected timeline for the rest of the educational tools is:

- Mid-Summer 2014: Producers receive letter notifying them of their current bases and yields;
- Late Summer 2014: The Margin Protection Program for Dairy, ARC and PLC tools will be online;
- Fall 2014: NAP buy-up online tools become available, NAP buy-up sign-up starts;
- Winter 2014: ARC/PLC one-time selections occur.

For more information and other helpful links, you can view the national news release [here](#).

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