



United States Department of Agriculture

Goshen County FSA Office
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February 2015 Edition

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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

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Important ARC/PLC Program Deadlines Approaching

Producers are reminded that the deadline to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres is Feb. 27, 2015. Farm owners and producers can choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) through March 31, 2015. The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades. USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Now through Feb. 27, 2015: Farm owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Now through March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election between ARC and PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments issued for 2014 crop year, if needed.

To learn more about which safety net options are most appropriate for specific farming operations, farmers can use new Web tools at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, which can be accessed from the convenience of a home computer or a mobile device at any time. To learn more about upcoming educational meetings, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to David Unverzagt. David was recently re-elected to represent farmers from LAA 2 (Townships 24-25) on the county committee. David was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Payment Limitation-Annual Notification

Program participants are notified of the following Payment Limitation provisions.

Payments and benefits under certain programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule
- average AGI limitations
- programs subject to AGI limitation
- effective date of implementation of AGI limitation

No program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:

- all required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made

Payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by the producer.

A farm operating plan is **not** required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents that are on file in the County Office.

If any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average AGI determination, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as applicable. **Note:** Failure to timely notify the County Office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

There are statutory provisions that require entities earning program benefits that are subject to limitation, to provide the names, addresses, and TIN's of the entities' members to COC.

All applicable payment eligibility and payment limitation forms submitted by producers are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process.

A determination of **not** actively engaged in farming results in the producer being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a determination of actively engaged in farming.

Noncompliance with AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or by failure to submit a certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for **all** program benefits subject to AGI provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible person or legal entity in any legal entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average AGI limitations.

Applicable annual limitations for person or legal entity, years 2014-2018:

Commodity Programs:	ARC, PLC, LDP, and MLG payments	\$125,000
Conservation Programs:	CRP annual rental and incentive payments	\$50,000
	EQIP (all years 2014-2018)	\$450,000
	CSP (all years 2014-2018)	\$200,000
	ECP (per disaster event)	\$200,000
Disaster Assistance Programs:	ELAP/LFP/LIP (all programs combined)	\$125,000
	NAP	\$125,000

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm 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. Farm Recon methods are:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county, are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Commodity Loans Available

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2014 loan rates for applicable crops in Goshen County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.70/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$3.28/bu.	Corn	\$2.06/bu.
Barley	\$1.87/bu.	Oats	\$1.37/bu.	Sunflowers	\$10.71/cwt.

Interest rates are minimal (example: the January 2015 rate is 1.125%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9th month following disbursement.

2014 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2015. 2014 corn/sunflower loans can be requested through May 31, 2015. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

For more information, contact this office.

Livestock Indemnity Payments

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides authority to cover eligible livestock losses. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

Sign-up is ongoing. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up process. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Please consult this office for details and to set up an appointment

Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as:

- Photographs or video records to document the loss, dated if possible
- Purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents
- Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Additional information regarding LIP or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs implemented by NRCS.

Many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If however an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information. A listing of service center locations is available at offices.usda.gov.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
 1441 EAST M ST. SUITE C
 TORRINGTON WY 82240

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Signup for Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)
April 1, 2015	Deadline for 2015 NAP enrollment for Spring Seeded Crops
Feb. 27, 2015	Deadline for ARC/PLC Yield Updates and Base Reallocation
Mar. 31, 2015	Deadline for ARC/PLC Elections
Summer 2015	Deadline for ARC/PLC contract enrollments for 2014 & 2015
Feb. 16, 2014	President's Day Holiday, office closed

/s/ Darrell L. Jones

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).