

JUNE 2012



North Dakota eNews

From the State Executive Director

Mother Nature has really blessed the land across North Dakota this year with an early spring and the start of pleasant summer. As I travel across the state I see the lush green fields of wheat and pastures full of young calves. 2012 will be a great year for production agriculture.

We recently announced the acres for CRP sign-up # 43. North Dakota had about 190,000 acres accepted with an EBI score of 209 or higher. County offices are now in the process of notifying landowners the results of their offers.

If you signed up for DCP/ACRE, July 16 is the deadline for producers to file acreage report for all cropland. Please do not miss this deadline.

Have a great summer with your family!

Aaron Krauter

North Dakota State Executive Director

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Marcy Svenningson,
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USDA Announces Results for CRP General Signup 43

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43rd Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. During the extended five-week signup, the Department received nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres of land, demonstrating the CRP's continuing leadership as one of our nation's most successful voluntary efforts to conserve land and improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources. Under Vilsack's leadership, USDA has now enrolled nearly 12 million acres in the CRP since 2009. Currently, there are more than 29.6 million acres enrolled on more than 736,000 contracts.

2012 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

Producers with a NAP policy should file a notice of loss if they believe their crops have suffered a yield loss. In addition, if a producer is going to abandon a crop with NAP coverage, the crop must be appraised prior to destruction of the acreage to ensure coverage. Producers with NAP coverage on grazing land should also file a notice of loss if they have suffered a loss in grazing capacity on pastures.

A NAP payment will be made if a unit suffers a loss of production in excess of 50 percent. The payment rate for NAP is 55 percent of the established market price for the crop.

Todd Hall, Member
Lynn Jacobson, Member
Marie Marshall, Member
Lucy Matejcek, Member

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2012 through Aug. 1, 2012. For more information contact your local FSA office.

Nomination forms can be found at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>.

Nomination forms can also be found in Spanish at:

http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A_SPANISH.PDF

2011 ACRE Program – Farm Benchmark Yield Update

Producers who have a 2011 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program contract on one or more FSA farms, must complete the FSA-658 (Record of Production & Yield) for each ACRE farm and each covered commodity planted in 2011 by not later than July 15, 2012. Production evidence that can be used to support the certified yields can be from the following sources:

Producers who have a 2011 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program contract on one or more FSA farms, must complete the FSA-658 (Record of Production & Yield) for each ACRE farm and each covered commodity planted in 2011 by not later than July 15, 2012. Production evidence that can be used to support the certified yields can be from the following sources:

- Crop Insurance loss records
- Sales records (buyer specific)
- Crop Insurance APH data base records
- Farm stored production records, appraisals

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. Producers who request prevented planting must report their acreage and complete a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, Part B

within 15 days after the final planting date. Producers will need to provide documentation showing field preparation, seed purchase, and other information that proves their intent to plant the acreage.

Failed Acreage

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

2012 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested.

The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 16, 2012, as July 15 falls on a Sunday this year. Producers are reminded that 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.

Foreign Owners Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who 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 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

MILC Program Requirements Reminder

Dairy producers must meet program requirements in order to maintain eligibility in the event that prices drop and trigger a MILC payment. To maintain program eligibility, MILC participants must notify their local FSA office of any operation changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number. In order for dairy producers to receive a MILC payment, they must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements by completing, "CCC-931 - AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information."

Dairy producers who want to enroll in MILC must fill out, "CCC-580 - Milk Income Loss Contract" and select a start-month for which the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will begin issuing payments to the dairy operation. Current dairies that participate in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14th of the

month before the selected MILC production start-month. The change must also be made before requesting payment and before the original MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on FSA's form, "CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification."

For more information about the MILC program, please contact your local FSA office or visit the web at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Swampbuster Regulations

The term "swampbusting" means converting a wetland to crop production. To maintain compliance, producers cannot plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland or convert a wetland to make it possible to produce an agricultural commodity.

Producers are required to file an AD-1026, agreeing not to convert wetlands. Therefore, before a producer plants or converts a determined or an undetermined wetland for possible crop production, they are required to notify FSA. FSA and NRCS will determine whether the area is a wetland.

Producers who convert wetlands to possible crop production without proper conservation measures could be ineligible for all USDA benefits on any land they own or operate.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term "sodbusting" means converting land from native vegetation, such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after December 23, 1985. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

Minority Farm Register

Minority farmers and ranchers across the nation can voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies.

The register is a shared outreach list that will help USDA, community-based organizations (CBOs) and minority-serving educational institutions communicate with minority farmers and ranchers. Producers who join the register may receive outreach materials, newsletters and program announcements from USDA agencies and approved outreach partners. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register. Individuals wishing to join the Register can visit the Name County FSA office and complete the registration form. Registration forms are also available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA

web site (www.fsa.usda.gov) under "Forms."

June Loan and Interest Rates

Operating Loans - 1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - 3.625%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 1.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.125%

Important Dates to Remember

2011 ACRE Production Evidence – July 15, 2012
2012 Acreage Reporting Deadline - July 16, 2012
2012 Land and Ownership Changes – August 1, 2012

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:8666329992) (English) or [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:8008778339) (TDD) or [\(866\) 377-8642](tel:8663778642) (English Federal-relay) or [\(800\) 845-6136](tel:8008456136) (Spanish Federal-relay).
