

December 2012



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

North Dakota FSA eNews

North Dakota State Office **From the State Executive Director**

1025 28th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: 701-239-5224
Fax: 701-239-5696

State Executive Director:
Aaron Krauter

State Committee (STC)
Marcy Svenningson,
Chairperson
Todd Hall, Member
Lynn Jacobson, Member
Marie Marshall, Member
Lucy Matejcek, Member

As the calendar year comes to a close many of the producers in the state are watching what's happening in the U. S. Congress. The future of a new Farm Bill is being debated daily with the hopes of providing a sustainable safety net for America's farmers and ranchers. While we don't know what a new Farm Bill will bring in terms of specific programs to deliver, we look forward to working with you in the future. From all of us at FSA we wish everyone a joyous and blessed holiday season.

--Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director

Miss the Acreage Reporting Deadline?

Producers who failed to timely file an acreage report for 2012 crops by July 15, or failed to meet the 2013 deadline of November 15, 2012 for fall seeded small grains and perennial forage, may submit a late-filed report if certain conditions are met. Those conditions include: existence of physical evidence of the late-filed crop, the crop's use can be verified, and the crop's acreage can be determined. Because of the transition to the new common acreage reporting deadlines for FSA and RMA, a late-filed fee will not be assessed if either of the above deadlines were missed.

To submit a late-filed report or to obtain additional information relating to the late-filed process, producers are encouraged to contact their local county office.

Continued Applicability of Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Even though the 2008 Farm Bill has expired, producers are reminded that highly erodible land conservation (HELIC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions still apply. HELIC and WC compliance provisions are provided by the Food Security Act of 1985 and amended by subsequent Acts, resulting in the continued application of those provisions.

In order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

2013 NAP

The Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster. The program covers crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production, based upon your approved yield and reported acreage. To apply for 2013 crop coverage, producers must complete a CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the service fee. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer in all counties.

Producers must purchase NAP policies for rye by October 1, 2012, honey by December 3, 2012 and for all spring planted crops, including grass for hay and grazing, by the 2013 sales closing date of March 15, 2013.

2011 SURE Program

Applications under the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) program can now be filed at your local FSA County Office. Producers who believe they may be eligible for a SURE program payment must contact their local county office for an appointment to determine eligibility.

The SURE program provides a producer a revenue payment when actual revenue falls below the producer's guaranteed revenue for the crop year. The program guarantee and revenue are based on the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that the producer has an interest in. To be eligible for payment, producers must have all acreage insured under either the crop insurance or NAP programs and be located in a disaster county or contiguous county.

For the 2011 crop year, producers in all counties in North Dakota are eligible to file an application for SURE. If the producer's farm revenue is less than the farm guarantee and at least one crop of economic significance suffered a 10% loss in yield a SURE payment will be based on 60% of the difference. To calculate a SURE program payment, FSA will compile production, revenue and loss records from RMA and FSA data and compare the actual revenue to the guaranteed revenue. Actual revenue is determined from national average market prices, therefore producers are not required to provide sales documentation, unless requested by the county committee. Guaranteed revenue is determined by multiplying the planted or considered planted acreage times the higher of the crop's APH, adjusted APH or Counter-cyclical yield times the insurance price election times the level of coverage.

For more information on the SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2012 ACRE Program – Farm Benchmark Yield Update

Producers who have a 2012 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 2012 by not later than July 15, 2013.

In the event a farm bill is enacted in the upcoming months, producers are encouraged to complete the 2012

production certification as soon as possible.

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

Register to Use the FSA Financial Services Website

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Financial Services Website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Once a producer has signed up for an e-Authentication Level 2 account, you will have access to the Financial Services Website.

Sign-up for an e-Authentication Level 2 account at FSA web site: www.eauth.usda.gov

When obtaining a Level 2 account, you must complete a customer profile and submit online. Once your customer profile is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account. Once completed, you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license.

Producers with a Level 2 account can access Financial Services website to view their farm data via their Customer Account and conduct business transactions via internet or submitting forms electronically.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (MAL) for certain commodities. MALs provide interim financing for eligible producers.

These loans carry a nine month maturity and can be repaid with cash at disbursement to loan maturity. To be eligible, producers must have produced an eligible loan commodity during for the applicable crop year, complied with annual program requirements, maintain beneficial interest, request MAL on or before the final loan availability date for a specific commodity, and, if required, submit lien waivers for any liens existing on the crop for which MAL is being requested. Producers may store commodities in eligible storage on the farm or may deliver their commodity to a warehouse operating according to the Federal and State licensing requirements or operating under a Uniform Grain and Rice Storage Agreement.

Counties with Disaster Designations

Producers in counties that have received presidential disaster declarations, secretarial disaster designations, or are contiguous to a declared or designated county may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans through Farm Service Agency.

Counties with current designations or declarations:

Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Cass, Dickey, Divide, Eddy, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Griggs, Logan, Lamoure, McIntosh, Nelson, Ramsey, Ransom, Sargent, Slope, Stark, Steele, Stutsman, Traill

Contiguous Counties:

Adams, Cavalier, Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Pembina, Pierce, Renville, Richland, Sioux, Towner, Walsh, Ward, Wells, Williams

Important Dates and Deadlines

December 25, 2012 - USDA Offices Closed (Christmas)

January 1, 2013 - USDA Offices Closed (New Years Day)

January 21, 2013 - USDA Offices Closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

March 15, 2013 - 2013 NAP - 2013 Spring Planted and Forage Crops

December Loan and Interest Rates

Operating Loans - 1.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - 3.125%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 2.125%

Commodity Loan - 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 1.875%

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 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).