

June 2013



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North Dakota FSA eNews

North Dakota State Office

1025 28th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

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

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2011 SURE Program

The sign-up for 2011 runs through June 7, 2013. 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 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop year 2011. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

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

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CRP General Signup Ends June 14

A four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began May 20 and ends on June 14. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Nationwide, contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers may also sign up for r continuous CRP programs such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife. For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2013 DCP Signup Underway

FSA County Offices are currently enrolling producers into the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) . DCP participants must report all farming operation changes to FSA to ensure contracts are accurate. The deadline to enroll into the 2013 DCP program is August 2.

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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. 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

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2013 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.

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2013 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2013 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 for the 2013 crop year is July 15, 2013. 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.

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

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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 17 through August 1. 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

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Emergency Loans

Producers with operations in counties that have been declared Presidential Disaster Areas or designated as a disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture or in a contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. The current emergency loan interest rate is 2.25 percent.

Producers with operations in counties that did not receive a disaster designation could be eligible for emergency loan assistance if they suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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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.

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Commodity Loan Repayments

Outstanding commodity loans can be repaid at any time at principal plus interest. Market rate loan repayments can be made on nonrecourse loans prior to loan maturity, when the market repayment rate is less than principal plus interest. Currently, there are no commodities with a market repayment rate less than principal plus interest. Matured loans cannot be repaid at the market repayment rate.

If the sales proceeds are needed to repay the loan, a marketing authorization (CCC-681-1) can be requested. The request can either be made in person or by telephone. The terms of the marketing authorization can be either 15 or 30 calendar days. All parties who signed the note are responsible for repaying the loan. If the buyer does not repay the loan as required by the marketing authorization, CCC will make demand for repayment on the producers who signed the note. If a market repayment option is available, the option cannot be used after loan maturity or when the buyer does not remit repayment within 15 days of the expiration date of the marketing authorization.

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Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the eligible net cost of the storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. FSA requires additional security for all loans exceeding \$50,000 or when the aggregate amount of FSFL loans exceeds \$50,000. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Sign-up for FSFL program is continuous as long as CCC funding is available. An FSFL loan must be approved before authorizing delivery of equipment or materials, site preparation, or construction. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations. The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork.

The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are normally repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Direct Operating Loan rates.

The Microloan program Fact Sheet [can be found here](#).

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Important Dates and Deadlines

June 7 - 2011 SURE Deadline

June 14 - CRP General Signup 45 Deadline

June 17 - County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins

July 15 - 2012 ACRE Production Evidence Deadline

July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2013 Crop Year

August 1 - 2013 Land and Ownership Changes

August 1 - Last day to file County Committee Election Nomination Forms

August 2 - 2013 DCP Sign-up ends

November 4 - County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters

November 15 - 2014 Crop Year Acreage Reporting deadline for fall seeded crops

December 2 - Last day to return county committee ballots to FSA County Office

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June Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans -1.125%

Operating Loans - 1.250%

Farm Ownership Loans - 3.375%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%

Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 2.250%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 1.250%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 1.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.000%

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