

March 2014



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

North Dakota FSA eNews

North Dakota State Office

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

State Office Staff

Administrative Officer
Russell Bubach
Compliance/Payment Limitations
Bryan Olschlager
Conservation/Livestock
Brad Olson
DCP/NAP/Disaster
Dale Ihry
Farm Loan Programs
Curt Thoreson
Price Support
Brian Haugen

- [From the State Executive Director](#)
- [Non-Irrigated Corn for Grain Coverage Available Under NAP Program](#)
- [2014 NAP](#)
- [New Farm Bill Provides Permanent Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs](#)
- [Guaranteed Loan Eligibility](#)
- [Direct Loan Changes](#)
- [2013 Crop Year Commodity Loan Deadline](#)
- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)
- [March Loan and Interest Rates](#)

From the State Executive Director

March is usually the month that signals the start of spring. Hopefully Mother Nature lets it happen, because I am tired of winter. With the passage and signature of the Agricultural Act of 2014, USDA and your Farm Service Agency are busy working out the details of the new law, and as those details become available we will inform the public. One way to stay informed is through email - If you are getting this e mail you are already set up in our GovDelivery system. Updates are also being shared on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Stay warm and keep informed,

Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director

Non-Irrigated Corn for Grain Coverage Available Under NAP Program

NAP coverage for non-irrigated corn for grain in nine western North Dakota counties is now available beginning with the 2014 crop year. Counties affected by the change in coverage are: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke,

Divide, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Slope and Williams.

The application deadline for the 2014 NAP coverage for all non-insurable spring planted and forage crops, including grass for hay and grazing is March 17, 2014.

[Back to top](#)

2014 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 at 55% of the NAP price for the crop. To apply for 2014 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 all spring planted crops, including grass for hay and grazing, by the 2014 sales closing date of March 17, 2014.

[Back to top](#)

New Farm Bill Provides Permanent Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2014 Farm Bill, formally known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) permanent programs and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who 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.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014.

As USDA begins implementing the livestock disaster assistance programs, producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters
- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Many producers still have questions. USDA is in the process of interpreting Farm Bill program regulations. Additional information will be provided once the enrollment period is announced. In the meantime, producers can

review the LIP and LFP Fact Sheets. Thanks for your patience as USDA works diligently to put Farm Bill programs into action to benefit the farmers and ranchers of rural America.

[Back to top](#)

Guaranteed Loan Eligibility

Changes to FSA regulations have eliminated Guaranteed Operating Loan term limits. Previous and current guaranteed borrowers who were not eligible for further guaranteed loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit are now eligible for further guaranteed loans through their commercial lender.

Direct Loan Changes

The interest rate for loans where FSA provides 50% or less of the total amount financed in the purchase of farm real estate has been lowered. This financing of real estate purchases, called Joint Financing, requires another lender to provide over 50% of the credit needs to purchase the real estate. The interest rate will be the greater of 2.5 percent or the current interest rate for direct Farm Ownership loans minus 2 percent, as a fixed rate for the duration of the loan. At present, the March direct Farm Ownership rate is 4.25 percent. Because the 2.5 percent floor is greater than subtracting 2 percent from the direct farm ownership loan rate, the rate for Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loans in March is 2.5 percent.

2013 Crop Year Commodity Loan Deadline

Producers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2013 crops are reminded that March 31, 2014, is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2013 crops: wheat, barley, oats, canola, crambe, flaxseed, rapeseed, sesame seed and honey.

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 (have title to the commodity and retain control of the commodity), 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.

FSA has made adjustments to the commodity loan program to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequestration that was mandated by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011. A sequester reduction of 5.1 percent will apply to crop year 2013 crop commodity loan program disbursements after October 1, 2013. Repayments for these loans will be at principal plus interest, based on the loan amount as reduced for sequestration.

Producers interested in a commodity loan on the above listed commodities should contact their local county FSA office staff prior to the March 31 deadline.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

[Back to top](#)

Important Dates and Deadlines

March 17 - NAP Deadline - 2014 Spring Planted and Forage Crops

March 31 - Commodity Loan Deadline for 2013 Crop Year

July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 Crop Year

[Back to top](#)

March Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans - 1.125%

Operating Loans - 2.250%

Farm Ownership Loans - 4.250%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%

Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.250%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 2.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.875%

[Back to top](#)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).