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## Oklahoma FSA Newsletter

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### Oklahoma Farm Service Agency

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Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### State Committee Members:

Cletus Carter, Beaver  
(Chairman)  
Steve Nunley, Marlow  
Brenda Neufeld, Fairview  
Steve Butler, Wagoner  
Jo Jennings, Depew

### Don't Forget to Report Your Acres!! Acreage Reporting Deadline for Small Grains and Canola Fast Approaching

Producers are reminded that the 2016 acreage reporting deadline for fall seeded grains (including winter wheat) and canola is **January 15, 2016**. All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland. It is also important to accurately report crops intended use. Intended use is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised once reported. Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely acreage reports. **Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted and will be charged late fees.**

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**State Staff:**  
Phil Estes,  
Farm Loan Programs

Tona Huggins,  
Production & Payment  
Eligibility

Rod Wanger,  
Conservation Programs

Danny Lee,  
Compliance & Price Support

Key Reimer,  
Administration

Please contact your local FSA  
Office for questions specific to  
your operation or county. FSA  
Office contact information can  
be located on our [online  
Directory](#).

## **Livestock Forage Program Deadline is February 1st**

Livestock producers in eligible counties are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their local FSA office to sign up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) which provides payments to eligible livestock producers for grazing losses due to drought, or fire on federal lands. **The deadline to apply for 2015 LFP is Monday, February 1, 2016.**

Producers located in Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Johnston, Marshall, and Pushmataha counties are now eligible 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Producers in Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cimarron, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Love, Major, McCurtain, Noble, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Roger Mills, Stephens, Texas, Tillman, Tulsa, Washita, Woods, and Woodward counties are still eligible for assistance.

**2015 eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and submit the required supporting documentation no later than February 1, 2016.**

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## **USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by Severe Weather Events**

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) wants to remind our farmers and ranchers that we have multiple disaster programs that may be available to help eligible producers recover from the recent heavy rains, flooding and severe winter weather events.

FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs and loans include:

- Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2016 crops.
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados, lightning, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

- Tree Assistance Program (TAP) – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers who have experienced an 18 percent death loss of qualifying trees, shrubs and vines due to the natural disaster event.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes.
- Emergency Loan Program – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought and flooding.
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - provides cost share assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by the natural disaster event. Assistance may include removal of debris, repair of conservation structures, such as dams and terraces, repair of sheet and rill erosion, and/or fence restoration or replacement. Areas subject to flooding according to soil survey maps are not eligible for assistance.
- HayNet - is an Internet-based Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze. [www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet).
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Continuous Signup - provides vegetative (grass and tree) cover cost share assistance and annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years to establish conservation buffers such as filter strips and riparian areas along permanent and intermittent streams. To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans, producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office or visit the FSA website online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ok](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ok).

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## CRP General Sign-Up 49 Continues

Farmers and ranchers are reminded that the general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-Up 49 is currently underway. The sign-up period began on **Monday, December 1, 2015 and will end on Friday, February 26, 2016**. December 2015 also marked the 30th anniversary of CRP, a federally funded program that assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water

quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. At times when commodity prices are low, enrolling sensitive lands in CRP can be especially attractive to farmers and ranchers, as it softens the economic hardship for landowners at the same time that it provides ecological benefits. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

For more information FSA conservation programs, visit a local FSA office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Deadline to Purchase NAP Coverage for Spring and Summer Planted Crops is March 15th

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency would like to remind producers that they have until **March 15, 2016**, to sign-up for the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for spring and summer planted crops. This deadline applies to warm season grasses intended for grazing as well as spring and summer planted crops such as: forage sorghum, peas, sunflowers, watermelons and other spring and summer planted specialty crops grown for food. The 2014 Farm Bill allows for higher coverage levels (50% to 65% yield protection at 100% of price) for non-grazing crops.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, NAP coverage is not available for that crop. Pilot policies of insurance are available for annually planted forage crops; therefore, NAP coverage can also be obtained but they are subject to multiple benefits exclusion. A producer who obtains both pilot insurance coverage and NAP coverage must choose which payment to receive if both qualify for payment.

The service fee is \$250 per crop/per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Higher levels of coverage also have a 5.25 percent premium cost. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers are eligible for a waiver of the NAP service fees and premium reduced by 50 percent.

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## Guaranteed Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your lender or local FSA farm loan office for more information on guaranteed loans.

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## Upcoming Important Dates:

- **January 15, 2016** – Final date for producers to report fall seeded crops/small grains.
- **January 31, 2016** – NAP Application Closing Date for various early-spring planted fruit or vegetable crops such as onions, potatoes, strawberries and tomatoes.
- **February 1, 2016** – Deadline to schedule an appointment to sign up for the Livestock Forage Program, for losses that occurred during 2015.
- **February 26, 2016** - Deadline to make offer for CRP General Sign-Up 49
- **March 15, 2016** - NAP Application Closing Date for spring and summer planted crops.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).