



NEWSLETTER



December 2014

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

7131 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

State Committee:

Bill Armbrust
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Leo Hoehn
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Executive Director:

Dan Steinkruger

Administrative Officer:

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Division Chiefs:

Cathy Anderson
Doug Klein
Greg Reisdorff
Mark Wilke

Next State Committee

Meeting: January 27-29,
2015

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county

Nebraska FSA Updates

Producers are Reminded to Submit all Crop Acreage Reports

Reporting all acreage to FSA is a requirement for producer's participation and eligibility for FSA programs. If your acreage report for 2014 crops has not been filed with FSA, the local office should be contacted before December 31, 2014 to make an appointment. Acreage reported for 2014 crops after December 31, 2014 will be assessed a late-filed fee.

November 15, 2014 was the deadline to report 2015 perennial forage and fall-seeded crops. Producers with these crops who have not submitted a report should contact the County Office as soon as possible to file their report.

Youth Project Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. For more information about Youth Loans, contact your local FSA Office.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup

The Agricultural Act of 2014 reauthorized CRP through 2018. CRP consists of a "continuous" and "general" sign-up period. Under continuous sign-up authority, eligible land may be enrolled in CRP at any time with contracts of up to 10 to 15 years in duration. Environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous signup. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet all the eligibility requirements.

Some eligible practices include riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers (quail), wetland restoration, filter strips, grass waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, highly erodible land (HELI), pollinator habitat, and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).

Dates to Remember

December 19, 2014 - 2014 and 2015 MPP-Dairy registration and election deadline

January 30, 2015 - 2012, 2013, and 2014 LFP and LIP application deadline

January 31, 2015 - 2012, 2013, and 2014 TAP application deadline

February 2, 2015 - Deadline to apply for 2014 LDP for unshorn lamb pelts

February 27, 2015 - Deadline for producers to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres

March 16, 2015 - Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Dates for Alfalfa, Mixed Forage, Spring Seeded Annual Crops (Barley, Oats), Grass, Spring Seeded Annual Crops (Vegetables), and Sorghum Forage

March 31, 2015 - Deadline for producers to make one-time election of either ARC or PLC for 2014 through 2018 crop years

December FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.625%

Microloan: 2.625%

Farm Ownership: 4.000%

Farm Ownership - Joint

Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership - Down

Payment: 1.500%

Emergency- Actual Loss: 3.625%

Farm Storage Facility Loan - 7 year term: 2.000%

Farm Storage Facility Loan - 10 year term: 2.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loan - 12 year term: 2.500%

Commodity Loan: 1.125%

CRP Continued...

All CRP contracts are entitled to annual rental payments and cost share assistance. Other possible incentives for certain continuous signup practices include a signing incentive payment (SIP) up to \$150 per acre, and a practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible costs.

To be eligible for CRP, land must be planted to an agricultural commodity four out of the previous six years 2008 to 2013 and is physically and legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have 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. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. For 2015 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2015.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

Program Election Ongoing for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Program

Producers have until March 31, 2015, to elect the best program for their operation.

Farm owners and producers are reminded that the opportunity to choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), began Nov. 17, 2014, and continues through March 31, 2015. The new programs are designed to help producers better manage risk. These programs usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Important dates associated with ARC and PLC include:

- Now through Feb. 27, 2015: Farm owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update payment yields and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election between ARC and PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments issued for 2014 crop year, if earned.

To learn more about which safety net options are most appropriate for specific farming operations, farmers can use new web tools at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. To learn more about upcoming educational meetings, visit the Nebraska FSA internet site at www.fsa.usda.gov/ne, under the "Producer Information Meetings" area on the main page.

LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until February 2, 2015, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2014 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- For Direct Farm Ownership Loans, does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Bill Allows Early Termination for Certain CRP Contracts

The Farm Service Agency reminds producers with acres under contract through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that they can apply for early contract termination, as required by the 2014 Farm Bill. The deadline to request early CRP contract termination is Jan. 30, 2015.

This is a unique opportunity to request early termination afforded by the 2014 Farm Bill. The earliest effective date for this early termination is October 1, 2014. The requesting CRP contract must have been in effect for at least five years and additional eligibility conditions must be met to qualify. The 2014 Farm Bill identifies a list of 10 exceptions whereby land will not be eligible for the early termination provisions. For a complete list of these exceptions, please view the program fact sheet online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_opt_out_fact_sht.pdf

Once a CRP contract termination request is approved by the FSA County Committee, the decision may not be reversed and the terminated contract will not be reinstated. Once the land is no longer considered under the CRP contract all participants must meet HEL/WC and other conservation compliance provisions for all associated lands.

For more information or to verify eligibility for early termination (opt-out) for existing CRP contracts, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-up Continues

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

TAP Continued...

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

The deadline to apply for TAP for losses from September 30, 2011 through the end of the 2014 calendar year is January 31, 2015.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, 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).