



NEWSLETTER



February 2015

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

7131 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

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

Nebraska FSA Updates

Nebraska State FSA Hardcopy Newsletter

FSA has stopped issuing hardcopy newsletters on a regular basis. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Nebraska started utilizing GovDelivery to issue all our newsletters. This year we were provided the opportunity to issue a hardcopy newsletter in February to provide Farm Bill information. If you did not receive a hardcopy newsletter in the mail, it may be viewed as an Adobe Portable Document File on the Nebraska FSA website (www.fsa.usda.gov/ne) or by clicking [here](#). A copy of the newsletter is also available at your local FSA office.

Important ARC/PLC Program Deadlines Approaching

Farm owners are reminded that the current deadline to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres is Feb. 27, 2015. If a base and yield decision is not filed timely farms will retain bases and program payment yields as they were in 2013. Producers can choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), through March 31, 2015. If no program election is filed the farm will be ineligible for 2014 program benefits, and the farm will automatically be elected into PLC for 2015-2018. It is important to contact your local FSA office before these deadlines for an appointment. Please be advised that some offices may be utilizing a register process which allows them to schedule appointments after these deadlines if necessary.

USDA Announces Changes to Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced fruit, vegetable and wild rice provisions that affect producers who intend to participate in certain programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or

Changes to Fruit, Vegetable & Wild Rice Planting Cont.

wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC (county coverage) or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Farm Loan Information Chart

A Farm Loan Information Chart Fact Sheet containing information on maximum loan amounts, loan terms, and use of proceeds is available. The fact sheet can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Additional details on available Farm Loan Programs can be obtained at local FSA offices and on FSA's website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA Farm Ownership Loan Financing Available

We have direct farm ownership loan funding available for beginning and existing farmers and ranchers who want to purchase farm real estate, construct farm buildings or make farm improvements. The maximum loan amount for a direct farm ownership loan is \$300,000. Farm ownership loans are available with interest rates starting as low as 1.5% for down-payment loans and 2.5% for joint financing loans. Repayment terms for loans vary depending on the type of loan and the borrower's ability to repay the loan, but loan terms will not exceed 40 years. In order to qualify for an FSA loan, the applicant must substantially participate in the farm operation, meet a test for credit eligibility requirement and be able to provide a feasible cash flow projection that shows repayment of the requested loan. FSA also has a guaranteed farm ownership loan program with a loan limit of \$1,392,000, which is financed through a commercial lender and guaranteed by FSA. For additional information regarding FSA's farm loan programs, financing options and eligibility information, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

The FSFL program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum FSFL loan amount is \$500,000 per loan.

Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility, permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. FSFL security requirements have

Dates to Remember

February 27, 2015 -

Current 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 -

Current deadline for producers to make one-time election of either ARC or PLC for 2014 through 2018 crop years
Deadline to obtain MAL's and LDP's for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, and Sesame Seed.

June 1, 2015 – Deadline to obtain MAL's and LDP's for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed

July 15, 2015 - Deadline to report all spring-seeded crops, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage

been eased for loans in the amount of \$100,000 and less. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Qualified facilities include grain bins, grain handling and drying equipment, hay storage sheds, cold storage facilities and handling equipment for fruits and vegetables. Specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers can also use the FSFL loan program for sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety-related equipment. For more information about the FSFL loan program, please contact your local FSA office.

February FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.625%

Microloan: 2.625%

Farm Ownership: 3.75%

Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.500%

Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.625%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 1.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.000%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 2.125%

Commodity Loan: 1.250%

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).