

July 2015



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Nebraska FSA Newsletter

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

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Lincoln, NE 68510

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

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Greg Reisdorff
Mike Sander
Mark Wilke

Nebraska FSA Hardcopy Newsletter

FSA has stopped issuing hardcopy newsletters on a monthly basis. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Nebraska started utilizing GovDelivery to issue our monthly newsletters. A hardcopy newsletter was issued this month. 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). The July newsletter link is under the Nebraska FSA Producer Newsletter section found at the top of the page. A copy of the newsletter is also available at your local FSA office.

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

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

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate. Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. 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 local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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 \$1,392,000. 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.

Reporting Organic Crops

Producers who want to use the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) organic price and selected the "organic" option on their NAP application must report their crops as organic.

When certifying organic acres, the buffer zone acreage must be included in the organic acreage.

Producers must also provide a current organic plan, organic certificate or documentation from a certifying agent indicating an organic plan is in effect. Documentation must include:

- name of certified individuals
- address
- telephone number
- effective date of certification
- certificate number
- list of commodities certified
- name and address of certifying agent
- a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, including the buffer zone acreage

Certification exemptions are available for producers whose annual gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less. Although exempt growers are not required to provide a written certificate, they are still required to provide a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, transitional and buffer zone acreage.

For questions about reporting organic crops, contact your local FSA office. To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

July FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.5%
 Microloan: 2.5%
 Farm Ownership: 3.75%
 Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.5%
 Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.50%
 Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.5%
 Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 2.0%
 Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.25%
 Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 2.375%
 Commodity Loan: 1.25%

Dates to Remember

August 1, 2015 - Deadline to request a reconstitution or farm transfer for 2015

August 3, 2015 - Deadline to submit nominations (FSA-669A) for COC elections

September 1, 2015 - 2016 sales closing date for value loss crops, nursery crops, turfgrass sod, Christmas trees, and aquaculture (NAP)

September 30, 2015 - Deadline to enroll into 2014/2015 ARCPLC Programs; Deadline to register and elect buy-up coverage for 2016 MPP-Dairy Program; Deadline to file a 2015 acreage report without a late-filed fee; 2016 sales closing date for fall-seeded annual crops (NAP)

November 2, 2015 - Deadline to submit 2015 ELAP application for payment and supporting documentation

November 16, 2015 - Deadline to report 2016 perennial forage or fall-seeded crops

December 1, 2015 - 2016 sales closing date for honey, apples, cherries, plums, strawberries, asparagus, and grapes (NAP)

December 7, 2015 - Deadline for ballots postmarked or returned to County Office for COC elections

January 4, 2016 - 2016 initial reports for honeybee colonies and locations

February 1, 2016 - Deadline to submit 2015 LIP application for payment and supporting documentation

February 1, 2016 - Deadline to request 2015 MAL or LDP for mohair, unshorn pelts (LDP Only), and wool

March 15, 2016 - 2016 sales closing date for alfalfa, mixed forage, spring-seeded annual crops, grass, and sorghum forage (NAP)

March 31, 2016 - Deadline to request 2015 MAL or LDP for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat, and sesame seed

May 31, 2016 - Deadline to request 2015 MAL or LDP for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed

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