



NEWSLETTER



November 2013

Nebraska State FSA Office

7131 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
Ph: (402) 437-5581
Fax: (402) 437-5280

State Executive Director

Dan Steinkruger

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

Dates to Remember

December 1, 2013 – NAP Sales Closing Dates for Honey, Apples, Cherries, Plums, Strawberries, Asparagus, and Grapes

March 15, 2013 – 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, 2014 – Deadline to Request Commodity Loans for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, and Sesame Seed

May 31, 2014 – Deadline to Request Commodity Loans for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed

FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.125%
Farm Ownership: 4.25%
Farm Ownership-Down Payment: 1.5%
Emergency – Actual Loss: 3.125%
Microloans: 2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) 7 year term: 2.0%
FSFL 10 year term: 2.625%
FSFL 12 year term: 2.875%
Commodity Loans: 1.125%

Nebraska State FSA Office Quarterly Updates

2013 Direct Payments and 2012 ACRE Payments Being Issued

The 2013 DCP or ACRE program direct payments should have been received by program participants. The 2013 direct payments were reduced by 8.6% due to the Sequestration Order passed by Congress. Participants in the 2012 ACRE program with non-irrigated corn or soybeans, irrigated or non-irrigated barley and dry peas may have earned an ACRE revenue payment (termed ACRE-ACRE) due to the fact that the actual state revenue was below the state ACRE guarantee for these crops. Transaction statements are issued from FSA's Kansas City Office to notify you when payments have been deposited into your bank account. Contact your local FSA office with questions regarding payments or payment calculations.

Report 2013 Production for ACRE

Producers on farms enrolled in the 2013 ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) program should report their production to FSA once harvest is finished. Although the production reporting deadline is July 15, 2014, now is an ideal time to complete this process while the information is readily available and fieldwork is complete. Contact your local FSA Office to make an appointment.

2013 Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans for the 2013 Crop Year disbursed after September 30, 2013 will be reduced by 5.1 percent at disbursement. The 5.1 percent is legally required by sequestration. The reduction applies to all commodity loans including marketing associations and loan servicing agents. Producers can request commodity loans until the following dates for each crop:

- March 31st – barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat, and sesame seed
- May 31st – corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans, and sunflower seed

For more information, you can view the MAL Fact Sheet by clicking [here](#) or contact your local FSA Office.

CRP Signup on Furlough

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1231 (a), as amended, provided authority to enroll land in CRP through September 30, 2013. No legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority.

As of October 1, 2013, FSA is no longer authorized to process any CRP offers or approve any CRP contracts. FSA is authorized to pay all incentive payments, annual rental, and cost share payments for all contracts approved before October 1, 2013.

Microloan (ML) Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the ML program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are normally repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Direct Operating Loan rates. For more information contact your local FSA Office or read the Microloan Fact Sheet on the FSA webpage by clicking [here](#).

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups 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; and for Farm Ownership purposes, does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local FSA Office. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for our loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Conservation Compliance Still Important

Remember the potential impacts of highly erodible land (HELC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions when making plans for the 2014 growing season. Although the Farm Bill recently expired, maintaining compliance with HELC and WC requirements is still important to avoid eligibility issues for future farm programs. An approved conservation system, as evaluated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS), must be followed on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop. Wetlands may not be altered or destroyed. Producers should file form AD-1026 before breaking new ground to plant, or manipulating wetlands by creating new drainage systems, improving existing systems, or clearing trees.

Report Forage and Fall-Seeded Crops

November 15th was the acreage reporting date for perennial forage and fall-seeded crops. Late-filed reports may be taken without a fee through January 15, 2014. Acreage reports should reflect accurate crop types, acreages, intended uses and irrigation practices. If a crop's intended use later changes, producers may update their report with the actual use. Perennial forage that is "left-standing" does not have to be reported until July 15, 2014.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your age, color, disability, familial status, genetic information, marital status, national origin, parental status, political beliefs, income derived from public assistance, race religion, reprisal, sex, and/or sexual orientation, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

GovDelivery – Electronic Notice of FSA Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

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).