

July 2015



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North Dakota FSA eNews

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From the State Executive Director

Summer time is a pretty special time in the Upper Great Plains for many families. There are school breaks for students, family vacations, summer camps, baseball-softball games, parades and on and on. There is just a lot of exciting outdoor summer activities. Production agriculture is one of those activities that creates a lot of excitement. Watching those spring calves turn into young cattle or that field of corn stretch into the sky is all part of our circle of life!

Through all these fun times don't miss one very important deadline. July 15th is the acreage reporting deadline for all cropland for the 2015 growing season. This must be completed by the deadline in order for a producer to be eligible any ARC/PLC payment. If you have been following the trend of the 2014 MYA (marketing year average) prices you understand the potential of these safety net programs. Do not miss this deadline!

FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loans) have had a lot of

interest because of the continual need for good grain storage and excellent interest rates. Check out the program at any one of our offices but remember that all of our requirements must be met before any work can begin.

Have a great safe summer!

--Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director

CRP 1-Year Contract Extensions

Beginning June 22, 2015, certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2015, may extend all or part of the contract acreage for a 1-year period at the same payment rate. No general signup is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2015.

The signup period for the 1-year extension ends August 28, 2015.

Contracts ineligible to be extended for 1-year are those contracts that will exceed a total of 15 years. Therefore, contracts that were approved for contract lengths of 14 years and 1 month up to 15 years will NOT be eligible for the 1-year extension. Furthermore, continuous CRP contracts are not eligible for the 1-year contract extension; only general signup contract holders are given the opportunity to extend their contracts.

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Margin Protection Program – Dairy

The registration and cover election period for MPP-Dairy for calendar year 2016 will be held July 1 through September 30, 2015.

For dairy operations that that registered and elected coverage for 2014/2015 must select the level of coverage for 2016 during the aforementioned period, as MPP-Dairy is a multi-year obligation between CCC and the dairy operation. Dairy operations that did not participate in MPP-Dairy may register their production history and select coverage for 2016 during this same period.

MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Catastrophic Coverage (CAT) of \$4.00 margin coverage level at 90 percent of the established production history requires no premium payment, but the dairy operation must pay the \$100 administrative fee.

For increased protection, dairy operations may annually select a percentage of coverage from 25 to 90 percent of the established production history in five percent increments and a coverage level threshold from \$4.50 to \$8.00 in \$.50 increments.

Coverage election must be made prior to the end of the annual election period. After the initial year of registration, failure to make an election results in the coverage level defaulting to the CAT level of 90 percent at \$4.00 margin. Dairy operations may only select one coverage level percentage and coverage level threshold for the applicable calendar year. All producers in the participating dairy operation with a share and risk in the milk marketing must agree to the coverage elected on the contract.

A web tool is available that will allow dairy producers to use data unique to their specific operation, combined with other variables, to test a variety of financial scenarios before eventually enrolling in the new MPP-Dairy. The web tool is located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool>

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ARCPLC Enrollment Period – 2014 and 2015 Crop Years

Enrollment into the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015 has begun. The contract enrollment period began on June 17, 2015, and will end Sept. 30, 2015.

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. Payments are earned on farms that are enrolled into the annual contract if; the crop base has been elected into the PLC program and the marketing year average price falls below the reference price for the crop; or for ARC-CO, the crop base has been elected into ARC-CO and the actual revenue for the year falls below the guarantee for the applicable crop; or for ARC-IC, the farm is elected into ARC-IC and the farm's actual revenue falls below the farms guarantee for the year. The 2014 crop year payments, if triggered, will begin to be issued in October of 2014.

Previously, land owners were given the opportunity to complete yield updates, base reallocations, and then elected either the ARC or PLC program. The program elections made by producers on the farm were an irrevocable program election that runs through the 2018 crop year. Whereas the contract enrollment process is an "annual requirement" for each of the years 2014 – 2018.

For ARC-CO and PLC, the contract enrollment must be completed by those producers with an interest in historical base acres of the farm. Or for ARC-IC farms, the contract must be completed by producers who have an interested in the planted acres of the covered commodities on the farm. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to complete the ARCPLC enrollment process and sign the program contracts by the deadline of September 30, 2015.

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2015 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

Producers with a NAP policy should file a notice of loss if they believe their crops have suffered a yield loss. In addition, if a producer is going to abandon a crop with NAP coverage, the crop must be appraised prior to destruction of the acreage to ensure coverage. Producers with NAP coverage on grazing land should also file a notice of loss if they have suffered a loss in grazing capacity on pastures.

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2015 Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2015 Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested.

The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report for the 2015 crop year is July 15, 2015. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including

failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

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Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

FSA reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

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Direct Farm Ownership Loans

Farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest loans available through the FSA direct farm ownership program. Applications must be approved by Sept. 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available.

Eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. The interest rate can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

For more information about farm loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your local FSA office.

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July Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans - 1.250%
Operating Loans - 2.500%
Farm Ownership Loans - 3.750%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.375%

Important Dates and Deadlines

July 15 - Production Evidence Deadline for NAP APH
July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2015 Crop Year
August 3 - 2015 Land and Ownership Changes
August 3 - Last day to file County Committee Election Nomination Forms
September 30 - 2014 and 2015 ARC/PLC Signup Deadline

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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).