

November 2015



Indiana Farm Service Agency Program Updates

Indiana Farm Service Agency

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From the FSA Farm Fields

The table is set. The turkey, dressing and all the fixins are baking in the oven, and the family is gathered to celebrate and be thankful for another year. How fortunate we are to live in the greatest country on earth. This week, citizens across America gather in their homes with family and friends to share the abundance of food we are blessed with during the season.

Every year at this time, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have a strong, vibrant rural America that provides so much for each of us. I am lifted up by you – the agricultural producers of our country – who are growing the food supply for this nation and abroad. It also is an important time to give thanks for those brave men and women who serve in our nation's Armed Forces, many of whom come from rural America. Many are overseas today, away from their own families, so that all of us can remain safe and free.

We should also take a moment to remember those affected by the tragedies abroad, and be thankful for the safety and security we enjoy.

Thank you for trusting the employees of the Indiana USDA Farm Service Agency, and for allowing us to work with you.

I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

In Indiana Agriculture,

Julia A. Wickard

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - Important Application for Coverage Closing Dates

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides assistance for crop losses to crops not covered by a county crop insurance program. Producers are responsible for timely applying for coverage by the established application closing date for the crop. The following is a list of NAP application for coverage closing dates and the crop coverage years affected that will occur over the next year.

To apply for NAP coverage, applicants must submit a CCC-471 NAP Application for coverage which includes the desired crop and pay required service fees. Applicants that can self-certify by the closing date as a limited resource producer, beginning farmer, or member of an underserved group may have the service fee waived.

For more information, including the NAP Basic Provisions, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Application Closing Date 12/1/2015

Honey, Maple Sap

Coverage Year: 2016 (January 1, 2016 - completion of harvest in 2016)

Application Closing Date 3/15/2016

Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Cucumbers, Corn, Eggplant, Greens, Herbs, Honeydew, Lettuce, Oats, Okra, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Soybeans, Squash, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon

Coverage Year: 2016 (Coverage start date varies; coverage ends the later of harvest/abandonment/destruction or established Normal Harvest Date)

Application Closing Date 5/1/2016

Nursery

Coverage Year: 2017 (June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017)

Application Closing Date 9/1/2016

Value Loss Crops: Christmas Trees, Grass for Sod, Ginseng, Flowers (for fresh cutting), Onion (for Sets), Aquaculture

Coverage Year: 2017 (October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017)

Application Closing Date 9/30/2016

Alfalfa, Barley, Canola, Garlic, Grass for forage or seed, Mint, Mixed Forage, Rye, Teff, Wheat, Crops intended for grazing

Coverage Year: 2017 (Coverage start date varies; coverage ends the later of harvest/abandonment/destruction or established Normal Harvest Date)

Application Closing Date 11/20/2016

Apples, Apricots, Aronia (Chokeberry), Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Hops, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Strawberries

Coverage Year: 2017 (Coverage start date varies; coverage ends the later of harvest/abandonment/destruction or established Normal Harvest Date)

Application Closing Date 12/1/2016

Honey, Maple Sap

Coverage Year: 2017 (January 1, 2017 - completion of harvest in 2017)

Crops not listed may still be an eligible NAP crop. Contact your local county FSA office for additional information.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul or feed any grain under loan.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

Farm Service Agency (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. As of mid November 2015, FSA issued more than 850,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National 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.

To learn more about FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Youth Loans for Livestock Projects

'Tis the season to begin thinking about purchasing livestock for the fair circuit next year.

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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved groups.

A targeted underserved 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, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: 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).