

August 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations](#)
- [2016 PLC Payment Rates and ARC Actual Prices for Wheat, Barley and Oats](#)
- [EZ Guaranteed Loans Designed for Beginning, Small-Scale Farms](#)
- [Beginning Farmer Loans Help Producers Get Their Start](#)
- [CRP Routine Grazing and Managed Haying](#)
- [Several Counties Accepting CRP Offers for Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator Initiative](#)
- [August FSA Interest Rates](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

---

## Nebraska FSA Newsletter

---

### Nebraska Farm Service Agency

7131 A Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-437-5581  
Fax: 844-930-0237

**State Executive Director:**  
Mike Sander, Acting

**State Committee:**  
Susan Frazier, Chair  
Fred Christensen  
Leo Hoehn  
Linda Kleinschmidt  
Roy Stoltenberg

**Program Chiefs:**  
Cathy Anderson

### A Message from the Acting State Executive Director

I want to take a moment to thank you, our Farm Service Agency (FSA) customers, for getting in the door in a timely fashion to help us complete your enrollment in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs by the August 1 deadline. The ARC/PLC programs are our main safety net for commodity crop producers in the state, so we want to facilitate access to the benefits by ensuring the enrollment deadline is met. Keep in mind that if you have made any changes to shares and/or producers with an interest on your farm since your 2017 ARC/PLC contract was filed, you need to contact your local office prior to September 30 to submit a revised contract.

Activity continues to be brisk at many offices as landowners and livestock producers ask questions and fill out required paperwork associated with release of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in many Nebraska counties for emergency haying and grazing. Landowners are reminded that they must contact their

Doug Klein  
Greg Reisdorff  
Mark Wilke

local FSA office prior to conducting any emergency haying and grazing activities on CRP acres. I also want to note that the last day for CRP emergency haying in Nebraska is Aug. 31. For more information, [click here](#).

To find contact information for your local office or other information about Nebraska FSA, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/ne](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ne)

While some areas of Nebraska are extremely dry, other parts have experienced heavy rainfall and/or damaging hail and winds. In the article below, Nebraska producers and landowners are reminded of the role they can play in reporting weather impacts to FSA that could lead to USDA Secretarial Disaster Designations. Such designations trigger availability of USDA low-interest emergency loans for qualified applicants and often get producers in the door to discuss what might be the best programming available to assist them after a disaster has struck. To view current designations in the state of Nebraska, [click here](#) and scroll down to "Drought and Disaster Assistance and Information" to find the listing.

That's all for this month.

Until next time,

--Mike Sander

---

## Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger.

FSA administers four types of disaster designations:

### USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation

- The designation process can be initiated by individual farmers, local government officials, State governors, State agriculture commissions, tribal councils or the FSA State Executive Director.
- This designation is triggered by a 30 percent or greater production loss to at least one crop because of a natural disaster, or at least 1 producer who sustained individual losses because of a natural disaster and is unable to obtain commercial financing to cover those losses.
- In 2012, USDA developed a fast-track process for disaster declarations for severe drought. This provides for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value for any length of time as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>).

### Administrator's Physical Loss Notification

- This designation is initiated by the FSA State Executive Director.

- The designation is triggered by physical damage and losses because of a natural disaster, including but not limited to dead livestock, collapsed buildings, and destroyed farm structures.

### **Presidential Designation**

- A Presidential major disaster designation and emergency declaration is initiated by the Governor of the impacted state through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- This designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State and local governments.

### **Quarantine Designation**

- This designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by the FSA State Executive Director.
- A quarantine designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by the effects of a plant or animal quarantine approved by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.

All four types of designations immediately trigger the availability of low-interest emergency loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. FSA borrowers in these counties who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt may be authorized to have certain set asides. Additional disaster assistance requiring a designation may also be provided by new programs in the future.

For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

---

## **2016 PLC Payment Rates and ARC Actual Prices for Wheat, Barley and Oats**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 provides for payments for covered commodities through the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program when the market year average price is below the reference price. Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program payments are triggered when the actual revenue is below the guarantee established for the program.

The Marketing Year Average (MYA) price for wheat, barley and oats was announced June 29, resulting in a PLC payment rate of \$1.61 per bushel for 2016 wheat and \$0.34 per bushel for 2016 oats. There is no PLC payment on 2016 barley.

For Agriculture Loss Coverage – County (ARC-CO), actual crop revenue is calculated by multiplying the actual average yield for your county times the higher of the MYA price or the national loan rate. For 2016, the following prices have been set – wheat at \$3.89 per bushel; barley at \$4.96 per bushel; and oats at \$2.06 per bushel. 2016 county yields will not be available until this fall.

Agriculture Loss Coverage–Individual Option (ARC-IC) will utilize the same prices as ARC-CO, however the actual crop revenue cannot be calculated until participating producers report all production for all covered commodities planted on the farm and all MYA prices for all covered

commodities planted on the farm are known. Both of these items are necessary to calculate the ARC-IC actual revenue for the farm.

All 2016 ARC and PLC payments cannot be made until after Oct. 1, 2017, or the announcement of the final 2016 MYA price for the applicable covered commodity.

For information on release dates for MYA prices, ARC-CO yields and projected and final PLC payment rates, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc) and click on the "ARC/PLC Program Data" link.

---

## **EZ Guaranteed Loans Designed for Beginning, Small-Scale Farms**

*Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) now has a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

Through the USDA EZ Guarantee Loan program, microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans) or by contacting your local FSA office.

---

## **Beginning Farmer Loans Help Producers Get Their Start**

FSA assists beginning farmers 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
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

## CRP Routine Grazing and Managed Haying

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants can utilize routine grazing and managed harvesting as outlined in their conservation plan. Managed harvesting and routine grazing are authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover.

Routine grazing is authorized every other year. Contracts approved prior to July 28, 2010, and still considered managed grazing can only participate in grazing one out of every three years.

Managed harvesting for hay is authorized no more frequently than one in three years.

Under normal conditions, managed haying and routine grazing can be requested at the local FSA office by the landowner or producer on the CRP contract. The same acreage cannot be hayed and grazed.

CRP acres must be considered fully established before haying or grazing can be authorized. In addition, haying or grazing CRP acres is not authorized during the primary nesting season. For Nebraska, the primary nesting season is May 1 through July 15. Producers must request approval before haying or grazing the acreage.

For routine grazing, the authorization expires September 15 and all livestock must be **removed by** that date. CRP participants must report the number of acres grazed to FSA by no later than October 1.

Before grazing eligible acreage, CRP participants must request approval and obtain a modified conservation plan to include routine grazing requirements. CRP participants are not permitted to graze any acreage hayed under managed or emergency provisions. Participants must report the number of acres routine grazed by Oct. 1, 2017.

For haying, the authorization expires August 31 and all hay bales must be **completely removed** from CRP contract acres by no later than October 15. CRP participants must report the number of acres hayed to FSA by no later than October 1. Haying is limited to one cutting.

Routine grazing and managed harvesting will result in an annual rental payment reduction of no less than 25 percent based on the number of acres actually grazed or harvested. Producers who qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher, who are grazing CRP acres, will not be assessed a payment reduction. This waiver only applies to routine grazing.

All hayed and grazed acres are subject to FSA spot-check at any time during or after the authorization period.

It is important to contact your local FSA office prior to any haying or grazing activities on CRP acres to ensure your contract remains in compliance.

---

## Several Counties Accepting CRP Offers for Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator Initiative

*Informational Meetings Scheduled for Late August*

Several county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Nebraska currently are accepting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract offers under the Kansas-Nebraska CRP Migratory Bird, Butterfly, and Pollinator State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project. Sign-up began

Feb. 17, 2017, and will be on-going until the acres are filled. In Nebraska there are 10,000 acres available for enrollment.

Project partners have scheduled informational meetings for these dates and locations:

- Geneva: Thursday, Aug. 24, noon to 2:30 p.m., Geneva Public Library, 1043 G St.
- Grant: Monday, Aug. 28, noon to 2:30 p.m., UNL Extension Office/Stumpf International Wheat Center, 76025 Road 329
- Sidney: Tuesday, Aug. 29, noon to 2:30 p.m., South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Dr.
- Broken Bow: Thursday, Aug. 31, noon to 2:30 p.m., Cobblestone Inn and Suites, 2750 S. 27th Ave.

Lunch will be served, so those interested in attending are asked to RSVP at (402) 471-5413.

The Migratory Bird SAFE project is designed to improve habitat by restoring playas for migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and water birds. Playas are round, shallow depressions that often fill with water after spring rainstorms or fill from underlying aquifers.

The minimum enrollment per offer is two acres, and the maximum enrollment per offer is 160 acres. The process for enrollment will be by competitive bid, and the offers will be reviewed periodically, ranked, and contracts offered.

Contracts will only be made available for acres that are located within designated playa areas. Contact your county FSA office to determine if your land is in a designated playa area and to learn more about the project. To find a county office in your area, visit: <http://offices.usda.gov>.

---

## August FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.750%  
Microloan Operating: 2.750%  
Farm Ownership: 3.750%  
Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.50%  
Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.50%  
Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.75%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 year term: 1.5%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 year term: 1.875%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 2.125%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 2.250%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 2.375%  
Commodity Loan: 2.250%

---

## Dates to Remember

**September 1, 2017** – Enrollment period opens for 2018 coverage for Margin Protection Program for Dairy

**September 4, 2017** – Nebraska FSA offices closed for Labor Day holiday

**September 30, 2017** – \*\*NAP sales closing date for 2018 coverage for rye, triticale and fall-seeded wheat

**November 1, 2017** – Deadline to apply for 2017 ELAP losses

**November 15, 2017** – Acreage reporting deadline to report fall-seeded crops and perennial grasses (including for NAP program purposes for 2018\*\*)

**\*\*Please note the above NAP calendar references may not be inclusive for all NAP-covered crops; NAP participants should contact their County FSA Office to confirm important program deadlines.**

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).