

August 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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North Dakota FSA e-News

North Dakota Farm Service Agency

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Acting State Executive Director:
Brian Haugen

State Committee (STC):
Marcy Svenningsen, Chairperson
Todd Hall, Member
Lynn Jacobson, Member

Deadline to Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) is Today (August 1st)

North Dakota Producers Have until **Aug. 1 (TODAY)** to Enroll in ARC/PLC

Farmers and ranchers have until Aug. 1 to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and/or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2017 crop year. These programs trigger financial protections for participating agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues.

Marie Marshall, Member
Lucy Matejcek, Member

State Office Staff:

Administrative Officer

Russell Bubach

Compliance/Payment Limitations

Wanda Braton

Conservation/Livestock

Brad Olson

ARC/PLC/NAP/Disaster

Laura Heinrich

Farm Loan Programs

Ryan Lindbom

Price Support

Brian Haugen

Producers have already elected ARC or PLC, but to receive program benefits they must enroll for the 2017 crop year by signing a contract before the Aug. 1 deadline. Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment if you have not yet enrolled.

Covered commodities under the programs include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

For more program information, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Find Your Local Office:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

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Last Day (August 1st) that Nominations are Open for the 2017 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committee are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County committees may have one or more appointed advisors to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

All nomination forms for the 2017 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2017. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections

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USDA Designates Certain North Dakota Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

In response to a request from Brian Haugen, acting State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in North Dakota, USDA has designated certain ND counties as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by a recent drought. Farmers and ranchers in certain contiguous North Dakota Counties are also eligible, since their counties border primary disaster designated areas.

If you are not sure if your county was designated a natural disaster area, please contact your local FSA office to determine if your County has been designated a natural disaster County and on what date it was designated.

Provided eligibility requirements are met, farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for FSA's Emergency (EM) loans, to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of loan programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Other FSA programs that can provide assistance, but do not require a disaster declaration, include Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; the Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; and the Tree Assistance Program.

Interested farmers and ranchers may contact their local USDA service centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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USDA Authorizes Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acres

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has authorized emergency haying and grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for the entire state of North Dakota.

The emergency haying authorization for the state became effective **July 16, 2017**, and ends **August 31, 2017**. The emergency grazing authorization for North Dakota became effective **June 23, 2017**, and ends **September 30, 2017**.

Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying or grazing of CRP must request approval before haying or grazing eligible acreage. It is also important for producers to obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that includes haying and grazing requirements.

Eligible producers who are interested in haying or grazing CRP under the emergency authorization and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for haying or grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval to hay or graze eligible acreage and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to include haying or grazing requirements.

Since all counties in North Dakota are authorized for emergency haying and grazing, producers are reminded that the same CRP acreage cannot be both hayed and/or grazed at the same time. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unhayed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unhayed and ungrazed for wildlife. In addition, participants are limited to one hay cutting and are not permitted to sell any of the hay.

For more information and to request approval for emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres contact your local FSA County Office.

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Emergency Livestock Assistance Program

Producers with land physically located in the following counties are eligible to apply for 2017 Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) benefits for costs incurred for hauling water to eligible livestock:

Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Renville, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.

Livestock producers who are hauling water to livestock may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA Office within 30 days of starting to haul water. Producers should also keep good records of the method used to transport the water, the number of gallons of water hauled, and the number and kind of livestock watered as well as the

number of days water was hauled. Please note that water being hauled to CRP acres grazed under Emergency Grazing provisions is not eligible for this program.

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Livestock Forage Losses

Producers with land physically located in the following counties are eligible to apply for 2017 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain for grazing, native pasture, improved pasture, forage sorghum for grazing:

Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Renville, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2018 for 2017 losses.

Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

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2017 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date. 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.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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ARC and PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

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Late-Filed Acreage Reports

The deadline for timely filing an acreage report in North Dakota for spring-seeded crops for the 2017 program year was July 17, 2017. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2017 ARC/PLC payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDP's. Additionally, 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. Although the reporting deadline has passed, county offices will accept late-filed acreage reports providing certain criteria are met. Contact your local county office for additional information relative to late-filed acreage reports.

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Preventing Crop Insurance Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are partners in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

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Managed Haying or Grazing of Certain CRP Acreages

CRP participants may hay or graze certain CRP acreages under Managed Haying/Grazing provisions. The haying and grazing period begins August 2nd. **The haying operation must end on September 1, 2016, whereas the grazing activity could be authorized as late as September 30, 2016**, depending on the approved stocking rate for the acreage. Interested CRP participants must complete the applicable application process and receive approval from their local FSA Office prior to any harvesting or grazing of CRP.

Early Land Prep for CRP Contracts Expiring September 30, 2017

CRP participants may receive authorization to begin seedbed preparation for a fall or spring-seeded crops during the final year of the CRP contract. This provision applies to acreage enrolled in certain CRP practices. Participants should contact the County FSA Office to determine eligibility. Participants will also have to revise their Conservation Plan of Operations at the NRCS office and receive approval from FSA prior to destruction of the cover.

Participants who are preparing for a fall or spring seeded crop may physically destroy cover beginning August 2 of the final year. The annual rental payment will assessed a payment reduction from the date the authorization is approved. Furthermore, if the cover is grazed or mechanically harvested prior to destruction, an additional payment reduction will be applied.

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Marketing Assistance Loans

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans on certain crop year 2017 commodities. These loans can be requested via mail, fax, or in person by properly completing the loan application (CCC-666). Loan applications are available at all county FSA offices and online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/>

A commodity loan application must be filed at the county office that maintains the farm records for the farm that produced the commodity for the loan. The 2017 crop commodity loan rates are available at any county FSA office, or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and clicking on the "Price Support" link.

Lien searches are required for all applicants and spouses in order to identify prior lien holders. County Offices update CCC-10's by verifying an individual's name according to their driver's license. Lien waivers are required from all lien holders before the commodity loan can be disbursed.

To be eligible for loan the commodity must meet the applicable commodity definition in the Official United States Standards and specific commodity eligibility requirements for a nonrecourse loan. Test weight and moisture levels can impact the eligibility for nonrecourse loans. If there are known quality problems producers should contact their local county FSA office to discuss available loan options.

Farm-stored loans are available in approved storage structures that provide safe storage for the commodity through the maturity date of the loan.

Warehouse-stored loans are also available at CCC-approved storage warehouses or State licensed warehouses which have been assigned a CCC warehouse code. Proof of storage paid through the loan maturity date and proof of payment of in-charges must be provided with the warehouse receipt for the warehouse stored loan. CCC will not adjust the loan rate using premiums and discounts at the time of loan making. However, loan rates will be adjusted if the loan is forfeited to CCC at maturity.

Loans mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the ninth calendar month after the month in which the loan was disbursed.

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Be Palmer Amaranth Aware

Palmer amaranth is a fast-growing, problematic broadleaf weed native to the Southwest. Recently, this weed has been spread to other parts of the nation. It is a highly competitive weed that has developed resistance to many herbicides, making it difficult to control. It is a very prolific seed producer, producing up to 250,000 seeds from one plant.

As you spend time in your fields this summer, be on the lookout for Palmer amaranth. If you suspect Palmer amaranth is on your property, contact your local county extension agent or crop consultant for recommendations for control. You can take steps to help prevent further infestation by not entering affected areas, and always cleaning vehicles, equipment and clothing that has come in contact with the weed.

Those planting grasses and flower mixes for conservation plantings should only use local reputable sources. Obtaining a seed laboratory report before purchasing a seed mix is recommended. Reject any seed lots which have "pigweed" or "amaranth" as a weed component unless the pigweed seed has been genetically tested to not be Palmer amaranth.

[Click here to learn more about Palmer amaranth and how to identify it.](#)

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Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

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Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program

FSA borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.

DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and is intended to relieve immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.

Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.

Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.

All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.

The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.

For more information, contact your local FSA farm loan office.

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Calendar Deadlines

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

*****August 1, 2017** - Sign up deadline for 2017 ARC/PLC

*****August 1, 2017** -All County Committee nomination forms for the 2017 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center

*****August 1, 2017** – Deadline to Request a Reconstitution or Farm Transfer

*****April 15 through August 1, 2017** - Primary nesting season in North Dakota

July 1 through September 30, 2017 - MPP-Dairy registration and cover election period

September 1, 2017 - 2018 Floriculture NAP Coverage deadline

September 30, 2017 - 2018 Rye, Rhubarb, and Asparagus NAP Coverage deadline

November 15, 2017 - 2018 Perennial and Other Forage NAP Coverage deadline

December 1, 2017 - 2018 Honey NAP Coverage deadline

August 2017 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans –**2.250%**

Operating Loans – **2.750%**

Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans – **3.750%**

Farm Ownership-Joint Financing – **2.500%**

Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - **3.750%**

Farm Ownership-Down Payment Loans – **1.500%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3-Year – **1.500%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5-Year – **1.875%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **2.125%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year – **2.250%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year – **2.375%**

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