

July 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## North Dakota FSA e-News

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### 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

### 2017 Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2017 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 Crop Disaster 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 2017 crop year is July 17, 2017.**

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

**Find Your Local Office:**

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

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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## USDA Authorizes Additional Flexibilities for Producers in Northern Great Plains

USDA authorized emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres during the primary nesting season in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana in the counties meeting D2 or greater, as indicated by the US Drought Monitor. Since that time the drought has continued to deepen and the forecast is for hot, dry weather in the upcoming week in the northern plains. As such, USDA is authorizing emergency grazing of CRP for any county in which any part of its border lies within 150 miles of a county approved for emergency grazing of CRP.

This special authority is limited to only CRP practices that are eligible for emergency grazing. Please contact your local FSA office for practice eligibility.

In addition, for any county in which any part of its border lies within 150 miles of any county approved for emergency grazing of CRP, USDA will allow CRP contract holders who hay their acreage according to their mid-contract management conservation plan to donate their hay to livestock producers. Under this special authority, the mid-contract management activity of haying cannot begin until August 2nd. Furthermore, the CRP participant must complete the proper paperwork at their local FSA Office prior to conducting this activity. CRP contract holders still have the ability to sell their hay with a 25 percent reduction in their annual rental payment as they've been fully authorized to do in the past under managed haying provisions.

**Emergency haying is NOT authorized at this time.** USDA will continue to monitor conditions and will consider expanding emergency authority if conditions worsen.

Eligible CRP participants can use the acreage for grazing their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. There will be no CRP annual rental payment reduction assessed for acres grazed.

A map displaying counties approved for CRP emergency grazing and the donation of hay under mid-contract management authority, is available at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/emergency-haying-and-grazing/index>

To take advantage of the emergency grazing provisions, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. Visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## 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. When natural disaster occurs, there is a process for requesting a USDA Secretarial disaster designation for a county. Agricultural producers can play a vital role in this process.

Due to the recent drought conditions being experienced in North Dakota, County Emergency Boards will be completing Loss Assessment Reports and determining if a recommendation will be sent forward to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the designation. In the future, if you experience a production loss as a result of a natural disaster you may submit a request to your local FSA county office for your county to be evaluated for a Secretarial disaster designation. Once a request is received, the county office will collect disaster data and create a Loss Assessment Report.

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

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## Report Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

With the current drought conditions, there are reports of blue-green algae poisoning of livestock around the state. Blue-green algae poisoning is an eligible loss condition under LIP. If a livestock producer has suffered livestock losses due to blue-green algae poisoning, they must file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent. Producers should contact their local veterinarian or extension agent to verify the cause of death. This will be helpful when providing documentation to FSA.

For 2017, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent
- An application for payment by March 31, 2018.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Livestock Forage Losses

Producers that graze livestock in **Divide, Williams, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, Dunn, McLean, Mercer, Oliver, Golden Valley, Billings, Stark, Morton, Burleigh, Slope, Hettinger, Bowman, Adams, Grant, Sioux, Emmons, Logan** and **McIntosh** Counties are eligible to apply for 2017 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native pasture and improved pasture.

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.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI)

Acreage crop reporting is an important part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) delivery of programs and services to farmers and ranchers. The USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI) has established a common framework for agricultural producers to submit acreage reports to USDA.

Farmers and ranchers can now choose to report their common crop acreage information either to their Farm Service Agency (FSA) local county office or their participating crop insurance agent on behalf of the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The common information from that acreage report will be shared electronically and securely between FSA, RMA, and the producer's Approved Insurance Provider (AIP).

Although producers must still contact both their county office and their crop insurance agent as they normally would to complete program-specific information, validate the common information, complete maps and sign acreage reports, the common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report, eliminating redundant reporting.

This new capability reduces the reporting burden on farmers and ranchers by eliminating the need to report the same information multiple times to multiple locations, while supporting efficient, secure, and more accurate data sharing across participating USDA agencies.

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## Eligibility for Nominations for the 2017 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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.

Committees 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. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## ELAP – Water hauling assistance

Producers that graze livestock in **Divide, Williams, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, Dunn, McLean, Mercer, Oliver, Golden Valley, Billings, Stark, Morton, Burleigh, Slope, Hettinger, Bowman, Adams, Grant, Sioux, Emmons, Logan and McIntosh** Counties are eligible to apply for 2017 Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) benefits if they haul water to livestock that had adequate watering facilities prior to the eligible loss condition and do not normally haul water to that grazing land. Producers must be able to submit verifiable records, such as bills, receipts, or invoices for the amount of water hauled, dates hauled, etc.

The producer must report the water hauling to FSA within 30 calendar days of when they started hauling water to their livestock. ***Please note that water being hauled to CRP acres grazed under Emergency Grazing provisions is not eligible for this program.***

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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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## 2016 ARC-IC – Farm Benchmark and Actual Yield Certification

Producers, who have a 2016 ARC-IC program contract on one or more FSA farms, must complete the certification of ARC-IC yields for each ARC-IC farm and each covered commodity planted in 2016 by no later than **July 17, 2017**.

Production evidence that can be used to support the certified yields can be from the following sources:

- Crop Insurance loss records
- Crop Insurance APH data base records
- Sales records (buyer specific)
- Farm stored production records, appraisals

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## USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit their local FSA office to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities 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. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Emergency Loans

If your County was declared a primary/contiguous disaster due to drought and heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process, under this secretarial designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has:

- Drought intensity of at least D2 (drought severe) for 8 consecutive weeks
- Drought intensity value of D3 (Drought Extreme) or higher

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by August 1 of the FY for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted

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## Commodity Loan Repayments

Outstanding commodity loans from crop year 2016 can be repaid at any time at principal plus interest. If the sales proceeds are needed to repay the loan, a marketing authorization (CCC-681-1) can be requested. The request can either be made in person or by telephone. The marketing authorization allows for the selection of a delivery period to the buyer of either 15 or 30 calendar days. All parties who signed the note are responsible for repaying the loan. If the buyer does not repay the loan as required by the marketing authorization, CCC will make demand for repayment on the producers who signed the note. Repayment of quantities delivered to the buyer are required within 15 days of the expiration date of the marketing authorization.

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## Calendar Deadlines

#### Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

**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

**July 17, 2017**- 2016 ARC-IC Production

**July 17, 2017** - Acreage reporting deadline for all spring-seeded crops, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage, and all other crops for the 2017 crop year

**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

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## July 2017 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans –**2.125%**

Operating Loans – **2.875%**

Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans – **3.875%**

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 – **1.750%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **2.000%**

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

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year – **2.250%**

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