

May 2017



Farm Service Agency

GovDelivery Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER



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

- [2016 Crop Commodity Loan Deadline](#)
- [2016 ARC-IC – Farm Benchmark and Actual Yield Certification](#)
- [2017 Acreage Reporting](#)
- [Reporting Organic Crops](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program-Primary Nesting Season](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program- Mid-Contract Management](#)
- [Emergency Livestock Assistance Program \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules](#)
- [Commodity Loan Repayments](#)
- [USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017](#)
- [Census of Agriculture Countdown Begins for America's Farmers and Ranchers](#)
- [ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance](#)
- [Maintaining Good Credit History](#)
- [Farm Safety](#)
- [Calendar Deadlines](#)
- [May 2017 Loan and Interest Rates](#)

North Dakota FSA e-News

North Dakota Farm Service Agency

North Dakota State Office
1025 28th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: 701-239-5224
Fax: 855-813-6644

Acting State Executive Director:
Brian Haugen

State Committee (STC):
Marcy Svenningsen, Chairperson
Todd Hall, Member
Lynn Jacobson, Member
Marie Marshall, Member
Lucy Matejcek, Member

2016 Crop Commodity Loan Deadline

Producers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2016 crops are reminded that **May 31, 2017**, is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2016 crops: **corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflowers.**

These loans carry a nine month maturity and can be repaid with cash at disbursement to loan maturity. To be eligible, producers must have produced an eligible loan commodity during for the applicable crop year, complied with annual program requirements, maintain beneficial interest (have title to the commodity and retain control of the commodity), request MAL on or before the final loan availability date for a specific commodity, and, if required, submit lien waivers for any

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

liens existing on the crop for which MAL is being requested. Producers interested in a commodity loan on the above listed commodities should contact their local county FSA office staff prior to the May 31 deadline.

[Back to top](#)

Find Your Local Office:

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

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 not 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
- Sales records (buyer specific)
- Crop Insurance APH data base records
- Farm stored production records, appraisals

[Back to top](#)

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 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**. 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.

[Back to top](#)

Reporting Organic Crops

Producers who want to use the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) organic price and selected the "organic" option on their NAP application must report their crops as organic.

When certifying organic acres, the buffer zone acreage must be included in the organic acreage.

Producers must also provide a current organic plan, organic certificate or documentation from a certifying agent indicating an organic plan is in effect. Documentation must include:

- name of certified individuals
- address
- telephone number
- effective date of certification
- certificate number
- list of commodities certified
- name and address of certifying agent
- a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, including the buffer zone acreage

Certification exemptions are available for producers whose annual gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less. Although exempt growers are not required to provide a written certificate, they are still required to provide a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, transitional and buffer zone acreage.

For questions about reporting organic crops, contact your local FSA office. To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[Back to top](#)

Conservation Reserve Program-Primary Nesting Season

CRP participants are reminded that CRP fields cannot be accessed during the Primary Nesting Season (PNS), which is April 15 through August 1. However, if CRP Participants must complete spot treatment of noxious weeds on CRP during the PNS, they must contact FSA in advance of this maintenance activity.

[Back to top](#)

Conservation Reserve Program- Mid-Contract Management

CRP participants with contracts that have been enrolled for 5 plus years should be getting reminder letters from their respective FSA County Office about the requirement to conduct a mid-contract management activity. The management activity varies from contract-to-contract, so all participants are encouraged to double-check with their local FSA office which activity is allowed on a particular CRP contract.

These management activities are designed to remove or break down old vegetation and rejuvenate the perennial cover. Most activities are eligible for cost-share assistance. Furthermore, the management activity is to take place outside of the primary nesting season (April 15 – August 1).

[Back to top](#)

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

Livestock producers, including Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish producers, are reminded that the 2017 Emergency Livestock Disaster Program (ELAP) program year began October 1, 2016 and continues through September 30, 2017.

Producers who suffer livestock losses not covered under LIP, or losses of eligible stored feed stocks, colony-collapse disorder, etc, are reminded to report these losses within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. In addition to filing a notice of loss, a timely filed acreage report for the 2017 program year must also be submitted with the administrative FSA county office. For Honeybee producers who have become aware of colony collapse while in another state, the notice of loss can be filed with the local FSA office in that state.

After producers have timely filed their notice of loss and acreage report, the next step is to make the application for payment. This step must be completed no later than November 1, 2017. Since ELAP funds are limited to \$20 million per fiscal year, the national office must determine if the requested ELAP payments exceed the \$20 million allocation. If the requested 2017 ELAP benefits exceed \$20 million, all payments will be factored.

[Back to top](#)

Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

[Back to top](#)

Commodity Loan Repayments

Outstanding commodity loans can be repaid at any time at principal plus interest. Market rate loan repayments can be made on nonrecourse loans prior to loan maturity, when the market repayment rate is less than principal plus interest. Matured loans cannot be repaid at the market repayment rate.

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 terms of the marketing authorization can be 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.

If a market repayment option is available, the option cannot be used after loan maturity or when the buyer does not remit repayment within 15 days of the expiration date of the marketing authorization.

[Back to top](#)

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.

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

[Back to top](#)

Census of Agriculture Countdown Begins for America's Farmers and Ranchers

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to strongly represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. The 2012 Census of Agriculture revealed that over three million farmers operated more than two million farms, spanning over 914 million acres. This was a four percent decrease in the number of U.S. farms from the previous census in 2007. However, agriculture sales, income, and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This telling information and thousands of other agriculture statistics are a direct result of responses to the Census of Agriculture.

Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov and clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally

would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

[Back to top](#)

ARC/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.

[Back to top](#)

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan programs require that applicants have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information found on a customer's credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

- Make sure to pay bills on time. Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
- Pay down existing debt.
- Keep your credit card balances low.
- Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts.

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov

[Back to top](#)

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm

equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.

[Back to top](#)

Calendar Deadlines

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

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

May 29, 2017- All FSA offices closed for Memorial Day

May 31, 2017 - 2017 Crop Commodity Loan Deadline for: corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflowers

June 1, 2017 - Final date to file an AD-1026 for 2018 crop insurance eligibility

July 17, 2017- 2016 ARC-IC Production Evidence

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 - Enrollment period for ARC/PLC ends

May 2017 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans –**2.00%**

Operating Loans – **3.00%**

Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans – **4.00%**

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 – **2.375%**

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

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).

 SHARE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)