

August 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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North Dakota FSA eNews

**North Dakota
Farm Service Agency**

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State Executive Director:
Brad Thykeson

State Committee (STC):
Jim Hauge, Chairperson
Jared Hagert, Member

From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson

With the smell of ripe grain in the air and the sight of a beautiful harvest sunset from the cab of the combine or the hay rack while baling, there is a lot to be thankful for in North Dakota. With harvest season well underway across the state, this is the rewarding time of year where farmers can gather the crop they've worked hard all year to prepare.

For our County FSA Offices, the spring-seeded acreage reporting season is now in the rear-view window, and I want to take a moment to thank you all, for getting into your local FSA office in a timely fashion to complete those reports as well as enrollment in the Agriculture

Erika Kenner, Member
Edward Kessel, Member
Barton Schott, 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>

Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

Due to the low commodity prices, please be mindful of our CCC-marketing loan program. If you are thinking about taking out a CCC-marketing Loan, contact your local county FSA office to make sure you have the right forms on file and for help getting the paperwork rolling.

Whether its farm loan assistance or a question on a present or upcoming farm program, your local FSA Office takes pride in being there to serve you. Please take the time to read below, all the important and timely program information happening with the Farm Service Agency.

Wishing you all a safe and successful harvest this year and don't forget to slow down occasionally and soak in the lifestyle we are blessed to be a part of.

- Brad Thykeson

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Deadline Approaches for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment

Producers Must File by August 17, One-Year Extension Available to Holders of Many Expiring Contracts

The deadline to sign up for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is **Friday, Aug. 17, 2018.**

In return for enrolling land in CRP, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to remove sensitive lands from production and plant certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years.

For this year's signup, limited priority practices are available for continuous enrollment. These include grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices.](#)

FSA will use [updated soil rental rates](#) to make annual rental payments, reflecting current values. It will not offer incentive payments as part of the new signup.

USDA will not open a general signup this year, however, a one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants with expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less.

Additionally, FSA established new [ranking criteria](#) for CRP grasslands. To guarantee all CRP grasslands offers are treated equally, applicants who previously applied (prior to the current sign-up period) will be asked to reapply using the new ranking criteria.

Producers wanting to apply for the CRP continuous signup or CRP grasslands should contact their USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov>. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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Marketing Assistance Loans

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans on certain crop year 2018 commodities. These loans can be requested via mail, fax, or in person by properly completing the loan application (CCC-666). Producers requesting a commodity must also have form CCC-633EZ on file for crop year 2018. 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 2018 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.

Producers requesting commodity loans are required to maintain beneficial interest in the commodity tendered for loan. Beneficial interest includes having control and title in the commodity. Loss of any one element causes loss of beneficial interest. Sales agreements, including options to purchase, priced later and contracts for future delivery can impact beneficial interest. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity remains ineligible for loan or LDP, even if the producer regains control or title at a later date.

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Conducting USDA Business Online

Producers choosing to conduct USDA business on-line must first obtain an eAuthentication account with a Level 2 access. This access permits you to access a wide range of USDA applications across many USDA agencies and their services. Once a Level 2 is obtained FSA customers can conduct official business transactions electronically via internet which includes existing programs and new agency announced programs.

To sign-up for a Level 2 you may begin the process by reviewing information at the USDA website: www.eauth.egov.usda.gov You are required to have an email address so you can register, create a customer profile and be able to respond to confirmation email that you will receive within seven

days. The final step for your Level 2 eAuthentication is the identify proofing which will require you to visit a local USDA Service Center and present a photo ID.

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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 2018 program year was July 16, 2018. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2018 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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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.

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Option Available for CRP Contracts Expiring September 30th

Producers with CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2018 may be eligible to extend their CRP contract for another year. For contracts with an original contract period of 14 years or less, CRP participants may extend their contract by completing the necessary forms with their local FSA Office by **August 17, 2018**.

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Managed Haying or Grazing of Certain CRP Acreages

CRP participants may utilize their CRP acreages under Managed Haying/Grazing provisions. The haying and grazing period begins August 2nd. The haying operation must end on September 1, 2018, whereas the grazing activity could be authorized as late as September 30, 2018, 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. Failure to receive FSA approval to hay or graze CRP acreages could result in contract termination.

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Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

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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Early Land Prep for CRP Contracts Expiring September 30, 2018

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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Payment Limitations by Program

The 2014 Farm Bill established a maximum dollar amount for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Payment limitations vary by program for 2014 through 2018.

Below is an overview of payment limitations by program.

Commodity and Price Support Programs

The annual limitation for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Loan Gains is \$125,000 total.

Conservation Programs

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment and incentive payment is limited to \$50,000. CRP contracts approved before Oct. 1, 2008, may exceed the limitation, subject to payment limitation rules in effect on the date of contract approval.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has an annual limit of \$200,000 per disaster event. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) has an annual limit of \$500,000 per disaster event.

Disaster Assistance Programs – 2017 & Subsequent Years

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) have a \$125,000 per person and legal entity single payment limitation that applies to the total amount of program year payments received.

Program payments under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP) no longer have payment limits.

Payment limitations also apply to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Contact your local NRCS office more information.

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Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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Guaranteed Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your lender or local FSA farm loan office for more information on guaranteed loans.

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Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

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North Dakota Farm Service Agency Hiring!

The Farm Service Agency (**FSA**) is an **exciting** and **rewarding** place to start, build, and/or continue your career. Be part of our team and support the well-being of North Dakota agriculture and the American public.

The **North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA)** is seeking to fill an additional full-time, permanent position at our **Stark County FSA County Field office location in Dickinson, ND.**

FSA's diverse culture and benefits allow for a healthy balance between your career and home life. In addition to a generous salary, positions with FSA offer benefits such as health insurance, life insurance, 401(k) plan, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, and flexible work schedules.

Potential applicants interested in learning more about open positions with the North Dakota Farm Service Agency and/or applying for these positions should click on the links below:

LOAN ANALYST (Stark County Farm Service Agency)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/506908300>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/506908800>

Location: Dickinson, ND

Dates Open: 8/2/18 - 8/15/18

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Calendar Deadlines

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

August 17, 2018 – Deadline to sign up for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

September 1, 2018 – 2019 NAP Application Closing Deadline for Floriculture

September 15, 2018 – 2018 CRP Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends

September 30, 2018 – 2018 CRP Managed Harvesting Period Ends

September 30, 2018 – 2019 NAP Application Closing Deadline for Rye, Rhubarb and Asparagus

November 15, 2018 – Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2019 Fall-Seeded Small Grains, Apiculture, and PRF/Perennial Forage

November 15, 2018 – 2019 NAP Application Closing Deadline for Perennial Forage and Grazing

Crops, Hops, Juneberries and Aronia Berries

December 1, 2018 – 2019 Nap Application Closing Deadline for Honey and Grapes

December 3, 2018 – Last Day to Return Voted County Committee Election Ballots to local FSA Offices

August 2018 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans – **3.375%**

Operating Loans – **3.750%**

Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans – **4.125%**

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 – **2.625%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5-Year – **2.750%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **2.875%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year – **2.875%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year – **2.875%**

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