

June 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

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

- [From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson](#)
- [USDA Extends Application Deadline for Dairy Margin Protection Program to June 22](#)
- [Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections Launch June 15](#)
- [2017 ARC-IC – Farm Benchmark and Actual Yield Certification](#)
- [ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance](#)
- [New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting](#)
- [Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules](#)
- [Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\) Losses](#)
- [2018 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- [LDP Applications](#)
- [Re-Opening of 2017 Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Livestock Assistance Programs Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters](#)
- [Commodity Loan Repayments](#)
- [Farm Storage Facility Loan Program](#)
- [Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Calendar Deadlines](#)
- [June 2018 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

State Executive Director:
Brad Thykeson

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

From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson

As we enter the buzz of summer and as the daylight extends, the work day does too for North Dakota ranchers and farmers. Whether it is putting up hay before the rain moves in, checking livestock in the pasture, or jumping at the chance to spray when the right weather conditions permit, there are some late nights and early mornings.

For our USDA-FSA offices across the State, the days are long as well, as we are in the midst of acreage certification season. The July 16th spring seeded acreage certification deadline is right around the corner. Please remember that certification is essential for your

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>

program eligibility so if you have not certified yet, take time to either stop by or schedule your appointment with your local FSA office.

There is a lot of helpful information in this month's newsletter including a few recent programs with changes including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the MPP Dairy Deadline Extension, and the Livestock Indemnity Program.

Also, the 2018 County Committee election season is now open for the nomination process. FSA County Committees include locally elected agricultural producers who help manage the fair and equitable administration of FSA programs in their counties. FSA County Committee members play an important role in their local agriculture industry by making important decisions on the farm program delivery process. You can learn more about the County Committee elections in the article below and we hope you consider filling out an application at your local office today.

As the month of June rolls on, I hope you can find time to enjoy the nice weather and the serene scenes of everything coming to life with a lot of green in the fields and pastures that stretch on as far as the eye can see.

Until next month,
- Brad Thykeson

USDA Extends Application Deadline for Dairy Margin Protection Program to June 22

The re-enrollment deadline for the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy has been extended until June 22, 2018.

The new and improved program protects participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below levels of protection selected by the applicant.

The re-enrollment deadline was previously extended through June 8, 2018. The deadline is being extended a second time to ensure that dairy producers are given every opportunity to make a calculated decision and enroll in the program if they choose.

This will be the last opportunity for producers to take advantage of key adjustments Congress made to provisions of the MPP program under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to strengthen its support of dairy producers. USDA encourages producers contemplating enrollment to use the online web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation.

The next margin under MPP, for May 2018, will be published on June 28, 2018. Therefore, all coverage elections on form CCC-782 and the \$100 administrative fee, unless exempt, must be submitted to the County FSA Office no later than June 22, 2018. No registers will be utilized, so producers are encouraged to have their enrollment for 2018 completed by COB June 22, 2018.

All dairy operations must make new coverage elections for 2018 during the re-enrollment period, even if the operation was enrolled during the previous 2018 signup. Coverage elections made for

2018 will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. MPP payments will be sequestered at a rate of 6.6 percent.

To learn more about the Margin Protection Program for dairy, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency county office at offices.usda.gov or visit us on the Web at www.fsa.usda.gov.

[Back to top](#)

Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections Launch June 15

The nomination period for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees runs June 15 through Aug. 1, 2018, and elections will take place starting in November.

County committees are unique to FSA and serve as a direct link between agricultural communities across the country and USDA. FSA's been across the country interviewing current committee members to spotlight their involvement in their county. [Read what they have to say](#) and check back each week.

For more information on FSA county committees, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

[Back to top](#)

2017 ARC-IC – Farm Benchmark and Actual Yield Certification

Producers, who have a 2017 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 2017 by no later than July 16, 2018.

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**

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](#)

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](#)

New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

This update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and ranchers' time.

USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Producers must still visit both locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as **FSAFarm+**, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[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.

Fruits, vegetables and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

[Back to top](#)

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

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing).

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. A notice of loss must be filed on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date. Prevented planting acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA. Contact your local FSA office for a list of final planting dates by crop.

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.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

[Back to top](#)

2018 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

[Back to top](#)

Conservation Reserve Program

Continuous Signup 51 – The 2014 Farm Bill established a 24 million acreage cap for CRP, meaning there cannot be more than 24 million acres enrolled during Fiscal Year 2018. In October 2017, all CRP continuous signups were suspended, except for CRP Grasslands and CREP, due to being so close to the acreage cap.

On June 1, 2018, the Secretary of Agriculture lifted the suspension and allowed continuous signups to begin as of June 4, 2018. However, the number of conservation practices is limited and the signup period only goes through August 17, 2018.

In addition to a limited number of practices available for possible enrollment, the soil rental rates have been updated and in most cases the rental rates have been reduced from previous rates. Another change made to the rental rates is the incentive rate of 10 or 20 percent has been removed. Furthermore, the Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) are not available under Signup 51. The SIP is a 1-time, up-front payment equal to \$100 per acre payment. The PIP is based on the costs associated with establishing new perennial cover for the contract acreage.

The following chart lists the only practices eligible to be submitted under Signup 51.

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways, Non-easement
CP9	Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
CP21	Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Buffer
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

Producers must complete all offers no later than August 17, 2018, and all supporting documentation must be submitted to the local FSA office prior to September 28, 2018, as that is the final date an offer can be approved under the 2014 Farm Bill.

1-Year Extension – Due to a decision made not to hold a general signup in Fiscal Year 2018, producers with CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2018, will be given an opportunity to extend their contract for 1 year, provided the total contract length does not exceed 15 years. Some contracts were originally enrolled for 15 years, and other may have been enrolled for 14 years and one or more months, so these contracts would not be given the opportunity to extend the contract period.

Producers with a contract(s) expiring on September 30, 2018 should have received a letter explaining their options.

If the CRP participant wants to extend their contract, they are to contact their administrative FSA office to begin the process. All extensions must be completed no later than August 17, 2018.

CRP Grasslands – CRP Grasslands is a continuous signup process and was not suspended in October 2017. However, several changes have been made in the available practices and ranking criteria. Continuous Signup 200 ended on June 1, 2018.

Continuous CRP Signup 201 began on June 4, 2018 and will end on August 17, 2018.

Producers with offers submitted under Signup 200 and not ranked or accepted, received a letter from FSA informing them their offer will not be considered for future enrollment. However, the letter also informed these producers they can file another offer under Signup 201.

CP42, Pollinator Habitat and provisional offers, meaning the cover will be planted at a later date, are no longer an eligible practice under CRP Grasslands.

CRP Comments – FSA cannot enter into a CRP contract after September 30, 2018 as that is when the 2014 Farm Bill expires. The September 28, 2018 deadline must be adhered to due to statutory limitations.

[Back to top](#)

LDP Applications

LDP's are available when the CCC-determined market repayment rate is below the commodity loan rate.

LDP's are only available on a commodity after the commodity is harvested, or sheared if wool or mohair, or extracted if honey. Approved storage is not required for commodities to be eligible for LDP. If an LDP payment is requested, a producer agrees to forego obtaining a loan on the same quantity.

The CCC-633 EZ is a multi-part form. Page 1 is filed as an intention to request LDP benefits. It must be filed each crop year and will cover all farms and commodities in which a producer has an interest for the 2018 crop year. Page 1 must be filed before beneficial interest is lost in the commodity and before a request for payment is completed on pages 2-4. The current version of the form and the only form accepted by CCC is dated March 28, 2014. The completion of page 1 does not cause a producer to lose loan eligibility for the commodity. The option of obtaining a loan is maintained until a quantity is requested on the page 2 or 4 payment request. Producers are encouraged to file a CCC-633 EZ Page 1 for crop year 2018 when visiting the County Office to complete crop year 2018 acreage reports.

[Back to top](#)

Re-Opening of 2017 Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Livestock Assistance Programs Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (the Act) made some changes to the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) and re-opened the two programs for 2017. Signup began on June 4, 2018 and will end 60 days after the publication of the applicable Federal Register.

For LIP, if an eligible adverse weather event injured livestock and the animal was sold at a reduced price due to the injury, the livestock owner may be compensated for this loss in sales price. The injured livestock must have been sold to a 3rd party within 30 calendar days after the end of the eligible adverse weather event. The livestock owner must be able to provide proof the injury was directly related to the eligible adverse weather event and sales documents indicating the reduced sales price. This provision is retroactive to January 1, 2017.

Also, if a producer submitted a 2017 or 2018 late-filed notice of loss or 2017 application for payment, those documents will be considered timely filed due to the re-opening of signup. If a

producer had not filed for 2017 LIP benefits, even for livestock that died due to eligible adverse weather event, they can file a notice of loss and application for payment until 60 days after the Federal Register has been published. This document has not been published as of this date.

The Act also removed LIP from the combined \$125,000 payment limitation with ELAP and Livestock Forage Program, therefore producers can receive more the \$125,000 in LIP benefits.

Under ELAP, the Act removed the \$20 million allocation per program year, so 2017 and future payments will no longer be subject to a national factor. The Act also allows 2017 late-filed notices of loss or applications for payment to be considered as timely filed. In addition, if a producer has not filed for 2017 ELAP benefits, they can do so until 60 days after the Federal Register is published.

With the removal of the \$20 million per program year cap on ELAP payments, FSA can make more timely payments to eligible producers, as we no longer have to wait to make payments until the end of the program year. ELAP payments can be made throughout the program year.

[Back to top](#)

Commodity Loan Repayments

Outstanding commodity loans from crop year 2017 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. Marketing Authorizations which are requested after loan maturity date are limited to a delivery period of 15 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.

[Back to top](#)

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the eligible net cost of the storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. FSA requires additional security for all loans exceeding \$100,000 or when the aggregate amount of FSFL loans exceeds \$100,000. Loan terms of 3, 5, 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan and loan type. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Sign-up for the FSFL program is continuous throughout the year. All requests for FSFL prior to loan approval require a site inspection for an environmental assessment in accordance to National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) requirements showing no adverse impacts. FSFL policy requires the following actions cannot occur at the proposed FSFL location prior to the environmental assessment being completed:

- accepting delivery of equipment and/or materials in previously undisturbed areas
- site preparation or foundation construction in previously undisturbed areas
- no alteration to any structures that are 50 years old or older or within a historic district

If any of the above are completed prior to FSA completing the on-site assessment, it may impede the completion of the environmental assessment and eligibility for the FSFL.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

Calendar Deadlines

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Now through August 1, 2018 – 2018 ARC/PLC annual signup period

April 15 - August 1, 2018 – Primary nesting season in North Dakota

June 15- August 1, 2018 – County Committee Nomination Period

June 22, 2018 - Re-enrollment deadline for the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP)

July 4, 2018 – All USDA Service Centers will be closed in observance of Independence Day

July 16, 2018 – Deadline to report your 2018 spring planted acreage

July 16, 2018 – ARC-IC Production Evidence

August 1, 2018 – ARC/PLC Sign Up Deadline

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

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 and perennial forage

November 15, 2018 – 2019 NAP Application Closing Deadline for Perennial Forage and Grazing Crops, Hops, Juneberries and Aronia Berries

June 2018 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans – **3.250%**

Operating Loans – **3.625%**

Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans – **4.000%**

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 – **2.875%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **3.000%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year – **3.000%**
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year – **3.000%**

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](#)

This email was sent to lindsey.abentroth@nd.usda.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: USDA Farm Service Agency · 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. · Washington, DC 20250 · 800-439-1420

