

May 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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From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson

After the long winter we experienced, the sunshine, warmer temps, smell of fresh dirt and everything coming alive with green grass emerging and trees budding is refreshing. After being cooped up for so long after the seemingly endless winter, I think we all can relate to the baby lambs and calves running through the pasture on these nice spring days. Feeling the warmth of the sun sure puts an extra bounce in our steps.

We are entering the heart of springs work, where tractors can be seen running up and down the fields. Although everyone wants to get the seed in the ground, we will welcome the moisture received in timely, reasonably-measured amounts this growing season in hopes our state does not suffer from severe drought conditions like last summer.

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Find Your Local Office:

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

Below you will notice that there was recently a change issued for the Livestock Indemnity Program. I also ask that you be mindful of the upcoming May 31st deadline to obtain FSA/CCC grain loans for 2017 corn, soybeans and oilseeds.

Our County Offices are busy preparing files for acreage certification. The acreage reporting deadline for spring-seeded and Conservation Reserve Program acres is July 16. Acreage reporting is required in order to receive farm bill safety net program benefits. For a successful acreage reporting appointment, we need to know what, where and when you planted each field. Keeping good records while you plant will help us complete your certification process efficiently. Our goal is to get you in and out the door as timely as possible, and we will work hard to ensure that happens.

Good luck with planting, stay safe and get some rest ----
Most importantly, enjoy the journey spring brings!

- Brad Thykeson

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Farm Service Agency Makes Administrative Change to the Livestock Indemnity Program

Agricultural producers who have lost livestock to disease, resulting from a weather disaster, have an additional way to become eligible for the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#).

In the event of disease, this change by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) authorizes local FSA county committees to accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management. The committees may then use this certification to allow eligibility for producers on a case-by-case basis for LIP.

LIP provides benefits to agricultural producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. Eligible weather events include earthquakes, hail, tornadoes, hurricanes, storms, blizzard and flooding.

Producers interested in LIP or other USDA disaster assistance programs should contact their [local USDA service center](#).

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2017 Crop Commodity Loan Deadline

Producers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2017 crops are reminded that May 31, 2018, is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2017 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 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.

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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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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 not 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
- Crop Insurance APH data base records
- Sales records (buyer specific)
- 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>.

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USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2018

Starting Nov. 1, 2017, farmers and ranchers with base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will end on Aug. 1, 2018.

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

The producers on a farm that are not enrolled for the 2018 enrollment period will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 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 previous years must still enroll during the 2018 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>.

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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.

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Policy Updates for Acreage Reporting

Beginning with the 2017 crop year, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) made several policy updates for acreage reporting for cover crops, revising intended use, late-filed provisions, grazing allotments as well as updated the definitions of "idle" and "fallow."

Reporting Cover Crops:

FSA made changes to the types of cover crops. Cover crop types can be chosen from the following four categories:

- **Cereals and other grasses** - Any cover crop that is classified as a grass plant or cereal grain, and would include, but not be limited to, the following cover crops: cereal rye, wheat, barley, oats, black oats, triticale, annual ryegrass, pearl millet, foxtail millet (also called German, Italian or Hungarian millet), sorghum sudan grass, sorghum and other millets and grasses.
- **Legumes** - Any cover crop that is classified as a legume, including, but not limited to, clovers, vetches, peas, sun hemp, cowpeas, lentils and other legumes.
- **Brassicas and other broadleaves** - Any cover crop that is classified as a non-legume broadleaf, including, but not limited to, Brassicas such as radishes, turnips, canola,

rapeseed, oilseed rape, and mustards, as well as other broadleaf plants such as phacelia, flax, sunflower, buckwheat, and safflower.

- **Mixtures** - Mixes of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time, for example, oats and radishes.

If the cover crop is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated according to policy guidelines, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop and the acreage report must be revised to reflect the actual crop.

Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting Date:

New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 days to change the intended use. Producer share interest changes alone will not allow for revisions to intended use after the acreage reporting date. The revision must be performed by either the acreage reporting date or within 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee's satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.

Acreage Reports:

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Reporting Grazing Allotments:

FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments. Producers will use form "FSA-578" to report grazing allotments as animal unit months (AUMs) using the "Reporting Unit" field. The local FSA office will need the grazing period start and end date and the percent of public land.

Definitions of Terms

FSA defines "idle" as cropland or a balance of cropland within a Common Land Unit (CLU) (field/subfield) which is not planted or considered not planted and does not meet the definition of fallow or skip row. For example, the balance of a field that could not be planted due to moisture or a turn area that is not planted would be reported as idle.

Fallow is considered unplanted cropland acres which are part of a crop/fallow rotation where cultivated land that is normally planted is purposely kept out of production during a regular growing season. Resting the ground in this manner allows it to recover its fertility and conserve moisture for crop production in the next growing season.

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Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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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

May 28, 2018 – All USDA Service Centers will be closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 31, 2018 – Final day to obtain FSA/CCC grain loans for 2017 corn, soybeans and oilseeds

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

May 2018 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans – **3.125%**

Operating Loans – **3.500%**

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 – **2.500%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5-Year – **2.625%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **2.750%**

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

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

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