

November 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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North Dakota FSA e-News

North Dakota Farm Service Agency

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Jared Hagert, Member
Erika Kenner, Member

From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson

It's certainly been a fall of challenges for North Dakota Farmers and Ranchers. When livelihoods depend on things out of their control such as weather and commodity prices, it creates a stressful scenario. Although we have had fall seasons that have been much easier to wean calves in and get the crop off, we are tough North Dakotans who will always find a way to get the job done.

In good or wearing times, we at the Farm Service Agency are here to assist. Please take some time to review the program updates we have listed below and know that we look forward to helping you and your operation ride out any situation.

Edward Kessel, Member
Barton Schott, Member

State Office Staff:

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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>

Items to highlight this month include:

- Per a recent announcement, Producers will now have until **July 15, 2019** to report any **2019 perennial forage crops**.
- The deadline for submitting **FSA County Committee Election ballots** is **December 3, 2018**.
- Sign-up continues and remains open until January 15, 2019 for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

As we approach the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday and with the recent Veterans Day Observance, we reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful and hold a special appreciation for our Veterans. To all the brave Service Women and Men of this great Country who have protected and fought for our rights to be free, thank you for your honorable and heroic service!

I wish you all a safe and productive remaining November,

- Brad Thykeson

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USDA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage Changes to July 15

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has established a new acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage for 2019 and subsequent years. Previously set in the fall, the new deadline is July 15 for all states, except for Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Timely and accurate acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including prevented planting or failed acreage, are the foundation for many FSA program benefits, including disaster programs for livestock owners. Producers must report their acreage to maintain program eligibility.

Producers who have coverage for perennial forage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report their crop acreage by the earlier of any of the following:

- the established acreage reporting date (July 15)
- 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported
- the established normal harvest date for the end of the coverage period.

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FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2018 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 5, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is **Dec. 3, 2018**.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2018 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

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Market Facilitation Program

Sign-up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is ongoing through January 15, 2019. The MFP provides payments to corn, dairy, hog, grain sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been impacted by loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers are to apply after harvest is 100 percent completed for the MFP crop commodity, as payments will only be issued on actual net production reported. Participants for MFP will submit one application (CCC-910) which shall include their share of actual production for all States and Counties the producer has farming interests. Actual production for MFP crop commodities can be certified production by the producer, which may include sold, stored or contracted MFP crop commodities. Once MFP production has been reported to FSA, revisions to applications to report any increases in production will not be allowed. Eligible MFP crop commodities must have been reported with an intended use of grain or seed and the acreage must have been mechanically harvested. FSA will be conducting a reasonableness review of reported 2018 actual production prior to approving MFP applications.

There are 2 scheduled payment periods. The first payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA around December 3, 2018.

MFP Payment Rates

Commodity	Initial Payment Rate *
Corn	\$0.01 / bu.
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12 / cwt.
Pork (hogs)	\$8.00 / head
Soybeans	\$1.65 / bu.
Sorghum	\$0.86 / bu.
Wheat	\$0.14 / bu.

* Initial payment rate on 50% of 2018 actual production

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For more further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov.

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USDA to Provide Agricultural Credit Training, Expand Opportunities for Farmer Veterans and Beginning Farmers

USDA is partnering with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to conduct agricultural credit training sessions in the Midwest for military veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. States under consideration to host the workshops include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These workshops will provide individuals interested in farming as a career, including military veterans, with methods to improve business planning and financial skills, and improve understanding of the risk management tools that can help small farm operations.

Other partners include Niman Ranch a community network of more than 700 independent family farmers and ranchers, and the Farm Credit Council and the Farm Credit System, which provides loans, leases and financial services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses across the United States. The workshops will also include assistance with credit applications and introductions to local or regional food markets.

To learn more about veterans in agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/veterans. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about FSA's farm loan programs. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. More information also is available from the Farmer Veteran Coalition at www.farmvetco.org.

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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 or abandonment 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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USDA Encourages Producers to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for NAP. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2019/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

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Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Signup Suspended

The 2014 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2018 and long with that CRP enrollment is suspended until the new Farm Bill reauthorizes CRP, meaning FSA cannot accept any CRP offers at this time. Until the new Farm Bill reauthorizes CRP, FSA can only perform maintenance on existing contracts. CRP participants are to continue updating FSA with ownership and/or operator changes on existing CRP contracts.

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2018 Livestock Forage Program

For producers in counties eligible for LFP, the deadline to apply for 2018 LFP is January 30, 2019. Producers are asked to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment, if necessary, to

complete this application. Livestock producers must have copies of land leases or permits when making the application. In addition, livestock producers will need to know the number of livestock that grazed individual pastures throughout the 2018 grazing period. To be eligible for LFP, the producer must have an interest in the livestock by either owning or leasing the livestock, plus either own or lease the grazing land. Due to the many different leasing arrangements that occur, it is possible that not all producers will be able to show an interest in either the livestock and/or grazing land. Don't delay completing your application.

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Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

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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 the following full-time, permanent positions at various County Office locations around the State of North Dakota.

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:

Program Technician (Hettinger County Farm Service Agency)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/515428000>

Location: Mott, ND

Dates Open: 11/01/2018- 11/15/2018

Program Technician (Eddy County Farm Service Agency)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/515259600>

Location: New Rockford, ND

Dates Open: 11/05/2019- 11/19/2018

Program Technician (Divide County Farm Service Agency)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/515612200>

Location: Crosby, ND

Dates Open: 11/05/2019- 11/23/2018

Program Technician (Cavalier County Farm Service Agency)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/516276400>

Location: Langdon, ND

Dates Open: 11/09/2019- 11/23/2018

Calendar Deadlines

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

November 15, 2018 – Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall-Seeded Small Grains and Apiculture for program year 2019.

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

November 22, 2018 -- Offices closed for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday

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

January 15, 2019- Final Day to Enroll in the Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

November 2018 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans –**3.625%**

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 – **2.875%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5-Year – **3.000%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year – **3.125%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year – **3.125%**

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year – **3.125%**

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