

September 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## North Dakota FSA e-News

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### North Dakota Farm Service Agency

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**State Executive Director:**  
Brad Thykeson

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

### From the State Executive Director- Brad Thykeson

September is the exciting month that brings on fall, the season of change. As the mornings become crisp and cool, and the fall foliage starts to emerge, I wanted to take the time to share a few points of information as we move forward this month, that will be of significance to you as North Dakota Agriculture Producers.

All of our County Offices are in full Market Facilitation Program (MFP) swing with the program beginning this past week (September 4th). A few key notes on MFP include:

- MFP applications are available online at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Producers will also be

Edward Kessel, Member  
Barton Schott, Member

**State Office Staff:**

*Administrative Officer*  
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*Compliance/Payment Limitations*  
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*Farm Loan Programs*  
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<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

able to submit their MFP applications in person, fax, or by mail.

- Eligible MFP quantity for crop commodities will be 2018 actual harvested net bushels.
- MFP applications are subject to spot check, which will require 2018 production evidence and in some cases submission of crop year 2017 production records.
- County Committee members will be instrumental in determining whether the yield is reasonable with the weather effects seen in 2018
- **Sign-up is open until January 15, 2019** and we strongly urge appointments with County FSA offices when you are ready to enroll to avoid waiting in line.
- Eligible Commodities include: Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, Sorghum, Dairy (Milk) and Hogs

We are ready to carry out this program and look forward to working with you and getting you enrolled, with customer service and delivery being our top priority.

So as harvest rolls on, the soybeans continue to turn, the corn goes from green to golden and the last of the alfalfa bales are headed for cover, I continue to wish you all a safe and fruitful harvest!

- Brad Thykeson

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## Conducting USDA Business Online

Customers with a Level 2 USDA eAuthentication account can access USDA information 24 hours a day. **Once Level 2 access is obtained you can fill out and submit electronic forms any time and submit to FSA, which includes applications for the MFP program.** The information submitted by you is safe and secure.

To begin the process in obtaining a Level 2 access, review the information at the USDA website: [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)

A Level 2 account will initially require a visit to a USDA Service Center for identity proofing.

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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.

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. Commodities stored in grain bags may be eligible approved farm storage for a CCC loan, if determined eligible by your local County Committee (COC).

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.

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## Report CRP Acres Hayed or Grazed Authorized for Emergency or Managed Hay/Graze

The deadline to hay CRP under emergency provisions was August 31, 2018. Producers are to report the actual acres hayed within 10 calendar days to the local FSA Office.

The deadline to hay CRP under managed provisions was September 1, 2018. Producers are to report the actual acres hayed within 10 calendar days to the local FSA Office.

If the CRP acres were authorized for emergency or managed grazing, the deadline to remove the livestock is the earlier of September 30, 2018 or the day identified on the grazing plan. These acres must also be reported to the local FSA office within days after removing the livestock.

For more information contact your local FSA County Office.

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## Market Facilitation Program

The sign-up period for Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is now open and runs through January 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). The MFP provides payments to corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been impacted by loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is 100 percent completed for the MFP crop commodity, as payments will only be issued on actual net production reported. Actual production for MFP crop commodities can be certified production by the producer. 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

### Initial Payment Rate \*

### Commodity

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, 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](http://www.farmers.gov).

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## Loans for Portable Handling Equipment

Farm Service Agency provides additional financing under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help new, small and mid-sized producers grow their businesses and markets.

The new "microloan" option allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales, grain carts, grain baggers or handling trucks that can move or store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport) or contact a local FSA county office.

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## Livestock Forage Losses

Producers with land physically located in the following counties are eligible to apply for 2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain for grazing, native pasture, improved pasture, forage sorghum for grazing: Bottineau and McHenry.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2019 for 2018 losses. In addition to the LFP application, the livestock

producer must also have a timely filed 2018 acreage report for all interests in grazing lands. The deadline to file a late-filed 2018 acreage report for grazing lands is November 15, 2018.

Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Emergency Livestock Assistance Program

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by Nov. 1, 2018
- An application for payment by Nov. 1, 2018

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at [www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets).

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## Call Before You Dig

No, FSA is not part of the Utility Notification calling tree. However, if there should be any earthwork, demolition or clearing of land that could potentially become part of a FSA funded project, eligibility could be impacted if someone doesn't "call before they dig".

All federally funded projects fall under NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) policy, and if any part of a proposed project involves ground disturbance or building alteration/construction, such as building a grain handling facility, etc, FSA must complete an environmental review before the project is initiated to ensure eligibility. The environmental review will determine if the proposed project will have an impact to any cultural resources, historical buildings/sites, wetlands, etc. Far too often there has been earthwork, building demolition, tree clearing, etc, conducted before the applicant visits the FSA office to inquire about program eligibility. If this should happen, the project will not be funded, so call before there is any digging, destruction or clearing of land.

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## Policy Updates for Acreage Reporting

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently 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.

### **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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## **Bank Account Changes**

Current FSA policy mandates that payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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## **FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans**

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$300,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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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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## 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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## 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:

**LOAN ANALYST (Pembina County Farm Service Agency)**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/509339800>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/509337100>

Location: Cavalier, ND

**Dates Open: 8/29/18 - 9/11/18**

**LOAN ANALYST (Cavalier County Farm Service Agency)**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/509339800>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/509337100>

Location: Langdon, ND

**Dates Open: 8/29/18 - 9/11/18**

**Program Technician (Lamoure County Farm Service Agency)**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/509219000>

Location: Lamoure, ND

**Dates Open: 8/31/18 - 9/14/18**

**Program Technician (Traill County Farm Service Agency)**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/509648600>

Location: Hillsboro, ND

**Dates Open: 9/5/18 - 9/19/18**

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## Calendar Deadlines

*Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines*

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

**September 30, 2018** - Managed/routine grazing period ends

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

**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

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## September 2018 Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans – **3.375%**

Operating Loans – **3.750%**

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 – **2.750%**

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 – **3.000%**

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